

The Swaminarayan

EDUCATION IS THAT WHICH LIBERATES

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for next week is “**Create a plan.**” I have written about it at the end of the newsletter.

WRITER'S CORNER



A sobering thought from Mike Johnson on Making Yourself Marketable...

To put into context the ongoing learning curve we will need to be employable in the next fifteen years, here's a sobering thought from consultant and author John Humble. 'If there aren't going to be cradle-to-grave jobs anymore, the secret of success will be employability. You don't own a job, but you are marketable to a wide range of people. To do that you will need to keep learning as a constant process.' And to illustrate just how far we have come in a few decades, Humble provides some sobering food for thought. 'My father probably got through his working life by doubling his knowledge, for me it has possibly been a factor of fifty times. For the next generation, who knows what it will take to stay ahead.'

A great deal more, not just to qualify and get that degree or that diploma but to stay employed. Maverick management commentator Mike Kami knows, '**If you are not 100 times smarter than you were five years ago – you don't count.**' And in case there is any doubt that knowledge – allied to an ability to update and adapt that knowledge - is going to take control of our collective futures, here's an extract from the *Financial Times*, which stated in a report that the middle class in the USA is being divided by its levels of education and skills, according to Robert Reich, US Labour Secretary. Reich said, 'The deepest divisions aren't based on race or on national origin or on geography; they're based on the abilities of individuals to make their way in an increasingly turbulent society.' He said that the middle class had splintered into three groups: an 'underclass', isolated from the core economy and walled off from hope; an 'overclass', who profitably rode the changes in the economy; and the bulk of the population, an 'anxious' class ... pulled and stretched by the need to work two or more jobs to keep a family solvent ... by the spectre that today's job will disappear tomorrow. The answer to the growing divisions, he says, is education. Expanding skills, particularly in technology-related fields, in-house training programmes and keeping potential high-school drop-outs in education longer, all help to build a new middle class, he believes.

That's someone talking about society as a whole and how changing business conditions – particularly technology – are already impacting the lives of all of us. At the business level, at the executive level, I suspect – probably not as clearly defined yet – that there are both companies and individuals who fall into those three categories: an 'underclass', that still hasn't seen the need for change, and most particularly are not yet aware that knowledge is taking over as the prime asset; the 'overclass', who are already ahead of the game and are being recognized for their foresightedness as the organizations people are clamouring to work for; the 'anxious' class, still not quite sure which way to jump, knowing it's the eleventh hour and they still haven't finished their homework.

Certainly we are not all perfect, and in this new race for knowledge most of us are just getting away from the starting gate. So, unless by some complete fluke we all got it right, education – the right sort – is going to be a bigger and bigger issue as we head toward...

S6 Parents' Consultation Evening

The consultation meeting for **ALL 6th Form students** will take place on Thursday, 9th February 2017 between 4.30-7.00 pm in the Yogi Hall. As always, all the parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's subject teachers including the House Tutors. This is an ideal opportunity to review their progress and performance after the Mock Examinations at the beginning of this term.

TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

Attached with this newsletter you will find the term dates for the next academic year. Please note that this time we have two weeks of half term holidays in October. This fits in well with the Diwali Festival season which is during the half term weeks. The total number of working days remain the same as we break up later than usual in July.

The Power of Words

- Results of a graduating class over a period of 20 years showed, that those who had scored highest in a vocabulary tests when they were at University occupied the most senior positions and had the highest earnings.
- Tests of more than 350,000 persons from all walks of life showed that more often than any other measurable characteristic, knowledge of the exact meaning of words accompanied outstanding success.
- This was further confirmed by vocabulary tests with people at various levels in their profession. Chief Executives knew the exact meaning of 236 words out of 272; Managers averaged 168; Superintendents averaged 140; Foremen averaged 114; and Floor bosses averaged 86.
- More significantly, children with the best vocabularies achieve the best grades in school.
Next week, I will highlight some ways of improving your vocabulary.

Create a plan

Think

Setting a goal for your life is all well and good but you will not reach your destination if you don't create a plan of how to get there. When a gardener plants the seeds of an apple tree, she has to make sure that the soil is fertile and that every so often it is watered. When the sapling is still small she will hold it up with a stick so that its roots have the chance to establish themselves. While it grows into a small tree after many years of nurturing, and the fruits begin to hang from the branches, she will continue to feed it fertiliser and water until they ripen. Only then will the apples she picks be sweet and juicy. Did you know it takes between 6-10 years before an apple tree is fully mature and produces fruit!

Feel

When you are young you are still learning, but a time will come when you have to decide what you do with your life. Having once decided, you will have to create a good plan to set you on your journey. A good plan has a short, medium and long term vision, and you will need to decide where you want to be in two, five and ten years' time. You will have to review your plan regularly to make sure that you are on track and if not you will have to modify your plan to get back on track.

Do

Think carefully about your plan; read books and magazines to find out if there is a future in that goal. It is no good having a goal for your future if it is not going to give you the type of life you want to create for yourself. Find people who already do what you want to do and speak to them to try and get work experience in that field. Find out about the future prospects and all the positive and negative aspects of what you want to do. Your plan will be a hundred times better if you do your research well, otherwise you will stumble through it and end up stumbling through life. You cannot afford to stumble though life if you want to build a bright future for yourself and everyone you love.

**Yours sincerely,
Nilesh Manani**