

Thursday, 26th March 2015

No. 27

The Swaminarayan

Education is that which liberates

www.swaminarayan.brent.sch.uk

Telephone: 020 8965 8381

Dear Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Friends,

Theme for next week

The theme for the week we return after the Easter break is **“Dealing with Problems.”** I have written about it in the back of the newsletter. There are, however, two very important themes which are scheduled for the two weeks of the Easter holidays and both important for students who are serious about their studies. One is about learning to be objective and the second is about learning to think logically. I hope you will read about them in your planners and embrace them.

Easter Holidays

Pupils return to school after the Easter break on Tuesday, 14th April 2015. Staff return to school on Monday, 13th April 2015 for a training Day.

Woman of the Future Ambassador Programme – Asha Patel, L6 writes:



On Monday Raksha, Aneeka, Akanksha and I had the privilege of attending the Woman of the Future ambassador programme at the Foreign and Commonwealth office. The first half of the programme involved speeches from Nejra Cehic, who is a TV reporter and Emma Wade, who is a foreign and security policy

counsellor and a FCO global champion for flexible working. These speeches were inspirational and helpful as it taught us about the power of networking and what it takes to succeed in this competitive world. After some refreshments, we had the opportunity of talking to some successful women such as Farah Pandith, a spokesperson in inspiring the younger generation not to be intimidated by the genetic diversity, as well as the influence of the ISIS. There were so many successful woman such as Nick Clegg’s wife Miriam Gonzalez Durantez and Samantha Cameron. They were happy for us to engage with them, take photos and ask for advice on our future career prospects. On a whole, the event was inspiring and gave us a boost of confidence for our future. A major thanks to Ms Maharaj for organising the event and Mrs Patel for accompanying us there.

Results of The Institute of Physics British Physics Olympiad 2015 – Mr Cotton writes...

As the Olympic Games itself represents the top standard of sporting achievement, so these competitions represent the highest standard in Physics and are done by the very top students in the country. "Every single question in these Exam Papers is a real challenge in itself." Indeed the Institute of Physics use these tests to select those students who would eventually represent the UK

in the International Competition. I am proud to publicize here the results for the students of our school who took part.

At Sixth Form:

Upper Sixth, Vatsal Patel won a Bronze and Tushar Baratam and Dilan Rabadiya received Commendations.

In the Lower Sixth AS Challenge: Silver was won by Aditya Vachaspati and Bronzes by Eeshaan Verma and Aditya Venugopal, and Commendations by Dhaval Patel, Vandan Patel, Tej Master, Jainee Shah, Neel Gajjar and Ravi Kadiwar.

In the GCSE Challenge for Senior 5: Silver was won by Ronan Patel, Bronzes by Premkumar Vyas, Dhillon Hirani, Sooruj Shah, Hinal Patel, Shyam Ramsaroop, Krishan Kara, Tineth Samaranyake and Param Patel and Commendations by Anajali Mavani, Nikita Patel, Gajahanaan Jeyachanthiran, Ashwin Sundresh and Jai Kalyan.

Connections – Chandresh Patel & Aditya Vachaspati write:

Two weeks ago, our mentors Mr Raivadera and Ms Odhavji spoke about how influential connections are in this competitive world that we live in.

Mr Raivadera, mentioned that we, the ordinary common man, is only SIX connections away from anyone in this world!! Ranging from famous pop stars, i.e. Taylor Swift all the way to Narendra Modi!! This is very helpful in the cut throat field of business, where EVERY LITTLE CONNECTION HELPS...

We did an exercise with our peers, which was called the “Elevator Speech.” Mr Raivadera said ”imagine that you are in an elevator with a complete stranger, and you are less than a minute to pitch yourself and in the end, establish a connection.” For example, if you’re in need of work experience, you would start of by introducing yourself and state what you want and why you need it. An example of that pitch would be” Hi, my name is Jeff and I am from XYZ city and I study so and so subjects and wish to get work experience at ABC company, do you know anyone that can help me with this??”

To prove how easy and effective this is, one student went up to Mr Raivadera and asked him for help in his work experience and to his surprise, he got the work experience at Mr Raivadera’s firm!! So the next time you want to do something and you are stuck in a pickle, go and talk to someone, you’ll never know what you may achieve!!



L6 Geography Trip to Epping Forest - Jai Bhatt and Monika Patel write:

On 19th March 2015, we went along with Mr Pinto to Epping Forest in order to complete our AS Geography fieldwork. Our aim was to investigate the various changes that occur within Loughton Brook a tributary of the River Roding as it travels from source to mouth.

Our day consisted of a long journey to Epping Forest Field centre, where we met with the friendly students of East Barnet School with whom we were sharing the day. We proceeded to

investigate the various soil types of the site area and further theory in the classroom. We then teamed up and progressed to conduct our field investigation at 3 distinct areas along the river. With much difficulty, we collected data on river depth, width, discharge and the various pebble sizes along the river profile. It was fun to experience 'live' Geography and see how it complemented our work with Mr. Pinto. A great day and thanks to Mr. Pinto for taking us.

DRAMA: THE SSTC WINS AGAIN! PRODUCTION: *An American Quartet* (ISA Drama Festival Competition, Hurst Lodge Studio Theatre, Ascot: 14th March, 2015) Mr Benny writes:



WITHOUT any exaggeration, it has been my privilege to work with the GCSE Drama students in S3 *as if* they were professional actors.

Actually, there is no *as if* about it! They *were* and *are* professional in every way: in their approach to rehearsing, to performing and in promoting The SSTC as an outstanding and united company dedicated to *ensemble* theatre. The proof is in the eating: for their performance of *An American Quartet*, they won both the Hurst Lodge Cup for the best Middle School production AND Rhea Vekaria (in her flawless portrayal as Cass's bitter mother) won the Margaret Milner-Williams Medal for best Middle/Senior Girl Performer.

Every one of the seven SSTC actors took a play originally commissioned and written for professionals in the 1990's and made it refreshingly their own, complete with American accents, American swagger and American triumph! Four sketches complete the *Quartet*, each paying tribute to post-war cultural icons in the States. In the first – 'The Heat is On', the Presley generation seek their freedom, represented by a hillbilly wonderfully defined by Reashan Naheerathan; an intellectual (Ananya Nath's natural role!); a restless youth (one of Rhea Vekaria's three roles); and the oppressive regimental GI played with strident authority by the powerful Adithya Puravankara. In the background, quietly present, the aged couple played by Payal Halai and Alisha Lakha who caught the final irony – that the older generation are as youthful as the aforementioned rebels.

Then we move to 'Dream On' in which Alisha played brilliantly, almost definitively, for an optimistic and aspiring young actress foiling with her embittered and protective mother (Rhea's medal-winning role). And so to the third and most difficult sketch, 'Hello, Goodbye, Norma Jean.' Unperturbed, the exacting and excellent Urvi Dudeja and Alisha in her 3rd role combined as the young hopefuls who flock to greet Marilyn Monroe. Conflict arrives in the shape of the acerbic and controversial columnist, Stella Sting, played with wonderful venom and precision by, again, Ananya. And who was our Marilyn? It had to be someone special – someone who could capture both glamour and reserve ambiguously ... it had to be, it was – Payal Halai, complete with blonde wig, sun glasses and a profound sense of Monroe's hidden sadness.

Finally, the finale 4th! The entire company joyfully united as nightclub cleaners in a tribute to American musicals and Hollywood stars with (apologies to Gene Kelly) - not 'Singing in the Rain' but '*Mopping in the Rain*'. And left – with the ever-reliable Gauranga Purohit (lighting & sound) Hurst Lodge, Ascot ... spotless! ... as professional as any West End company.... Encore, encore!

S5 GCSE DRAMA REHEARSAL SCHEDULE – Mr Benny writes:

S5 students now have a copy of their rehearsals schedule for the GCSE exam, including holiday and the Summer term's evening times, and I would be grateful if parents would ensure their children's prompt attendance. All rehearsals are compulsory and failure to attend may result in a student being withdrawn from the GCSE. Thank you for your support.

Reading for Learning – Ria Mehta (S5)

I hope I wasn't missed too much last week. To be honest, I think after 'Mr 100%'s' piece we needed a break. Reading to entertain is a lot different than reading for learning (as mentioned by Mr Hopkins in his highly interesting assembly on Monday). Now I know that none of us really read this paragraph to learn something, instead we read it so we can say 'wow Ria I totally read your amazing piece in the newsletter! Stay read!' Nobody says that but this is the perfect hint for you guys to start. However, we all read the rest of the newsletter in the hope of learning something about a certain event or a timetable and this may be different than reading a textbook to learn it's still reading to learn something. The reason we remember the things in the newsletter because we know it's essential to us and we have an actual interest. Don't worry Mr Cotton, I'm not saying reading a physics textbook isn't interesting. For us to learn by reading we need to have an actual interest in the subject, we need to be willing to learn rather than wanting to memorise. This being said, not all people learn through reading but I think that it's always better to try any method which may help you pass that test. On a different note, IT'S THE LAST WEEK OF TERM! I know that it's not a big thing but at least we get 2 weeks' holiday, or in my case 2 weeks of reading for learning while 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' plays softly in the background. I hope that everyone has an amazing holiday and gets ready for a British attempt of a summer.

Dealing with problems

Think

Problems are a daily occurrence in life. People have to work with each other. Whenever people come together there will inevitably be times when they will not agree with each other and you will find this to be the case with your friends at school, with teachers and with your family. No two people will always agree. Learning to deal with people and problems is a part of life and the sooner you learn this, the happier, more fruitful and productive your life will become.

Feel

When you are young you always have people around you to help you and life doesn't seem all that bad. As you grow through your school years you will become more and more independent. The decisions you make may also become more and more important, and some of them may have life-changing impact. You will learn to deal with problems in your own way, and sometimes you will stumble and make the wrong decisions. The most important thing to remember is not to suffer them on your own. If you have problems with your friends the best thing to do is speak to them about it, and if they are your true friends they will be happy that you spoke to them directly. The same is true with your family; remember that they love you. Their love for you is unconditional and your parents and brothers or sisters are your staunchest supporters. Speak to them frankly about anything that troubles you and they will always find a way to help you.

Do

Schools have teachers and counsellors to help you, and in many schools nurses as well. If it is an academic problem ask your teachers, and if you are shy to ask in front of everyone or afraid to make a fool of yourself in front of your peers, ask after the lesson, during the break or lunch time. If they are busy make an appointment at a time when it is convenient for them. If you have personal problems speak to your Form or Class teacher, or make an appointment with the school counsellor. Some schools will have 'Vertical Mentoring Schemes' when older students mentor younger students. The support for you is there, all you need to do is ask for help. Even adults can't cope with their problems on their own.

**Yours sincerely,
Nilesh Manani**