

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 on the reverse of the newsletter.

S5 Parents Consultation evening today: 4.30-7.00 pm.

Dhruvi Patel in Senior 5 writes about her upcoming visit to Young Global Leaders Conference...



Summer 2016. With my GCSE's over and the holiday season approaching, I shall be going to the United States to attend the annual Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC). What is it? Why am I going? It is a 10-day leadership journey, which will provide out-of-classroom learning experience for 15-17 year olds. Confidence, independence and global competitiveness are some of the few things that will be encouraged and enhanced throughout the stay. I will work with my peers from many countries from all over the world, interact with leaders in USA, and hopefully gain a fresh, new global perspective. The itinerary includes university tours, memorial visits, group debates and much more. However the one thing I am looking forward to, more than anything else, is the visit to the United Nations Headquarters. The United Nations is one of the most important international peace keeping organisations, and it

will be a pleasure to visit the Headquarters. Other than the fancy visits and talks, I am going for an unforgettable experience. When I was talking to a Swaminarayan School student who has already been, I could see the passion that she had whilst describing the event. I am excited to attend the conference and hope to make it memorable.

Drama News - Mr Benny writes:

Would parents of Year 9 GCSE actors please keep Tuesday, 16 February free for their children to rehearse during the half-term break for the ISA Drama Competition. The rehearsal will start at 10.30 a.m. and finish at 1pm, and all are advised to bring packed lunches. PLEA FOR HELP TOO! Can any of you lend the production 3 collapsible garden chairs?

The Learning Brain - How do we learn?

I thought you might find this interesting at a time when knowledge and the ability to access/absorb information is becoming increasingly important.

1. Learning begins on a microscopic level.
2. The human brain has over 100 billion neurons.
3. A human brain loses between 10000 to 100000 cells.

4. Each learning experience forms connections between different neurons.
5. A single neuron may connect with 1000 or 10000 other cells.
6. The brain is very good at learning.
7. Each new stimuli changes the structure of the brain by forming new connections between neurons known as synapse.
8. Most adult neurons stay put but make connections with other neurons by extending leg-like extensions called axons.
9. Axons become thicker – coated with a fatty substance called myelin - with greater use and conducts electricity faster.
10. Myelination makes the brain more efficient.
11. The brain is stimulated when one does something new.

Six Ways to Revise: Mathematics

I am going to begin a series on six ways to revise, starting with Mathematics today. The best six ways to revise for Mathematics are listed below, written by experienced teachers.

1. Learn the times-tables up to 15.
2. Practise calculations without a calculator.
3. Show written working.
4. Revise by actively 'doing' not just 'reading'.
5. Explain your method of working to a friend.
6. Check whether the answer is sensible when you have finished.

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