**FROM THE HEAD MASTER**

At Swaminarayan, everyone works hard to create an exciting and stimulating environment to enable each child to achieve their full potential supported by our values of non-violence and service to all. Swaminarayan accepts pupils who show a willingness to learn but also persevere when faced with difficulty because no great achievement in life is without challenge. While we understand that all these qualities will not have developed when they join the school, we hope they will have learnt their worth by the time they complete their education at the school.

**CHARACTER – We believe good, strong character is essential to lifelong success in all areas and contribution to the world beyond the gates of the school.**

Over the course of their time in the school we will strive hard to nurture good manners, the value of kindness and service, beginning first within the school through charitable endeavours, and then in the wider world to enable them to make a positive and worthwhile contribution when they eventually leave the school.

**EXCELLENCE – We believe in striving for excellence in everything we do but not that excellence is everything.**

Rather that our pupils develop intellectual curiosity, understand the value of hard work, dedication, independent thought and aspire. We hope to achieve these qualities by instilling academic rigour, reading, debate, reflection, analysis, problem solving, experimental work and research. They should be able to challenge the norm with confidence and freedom. These qualities form the foundation for achieving good results which are essential to future success. In essence, excellence is a product of embracing these qualities.

**OPPORTUNITY – We believe in providing a diverse range of experiences to prepare our pupils for a successful future.**

All our pupil aspire to go to the best universities. While we have a team of tutors who help pupils to achieve that aim, it is important we offer a range of other activities like the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Canoeing, Kayaking, Sailing, Ice-Skating, Skiing, Archery, Fencing, Debating, Public Speaking and competitive sports to give them the competitive edge in life and applications to universities.

**SPIRITUALITY – We believe in the power of prayer, the strength and solace that we gain from looking inward.**

So we begin every lesson with a brief prayer, a moment to instil the calmness within before the mind is ready to learn, to soak up the knowledge, understand and grow. This is not achieved in one day or even one year. It is a gradual growth over the years which we hope will continue to give them strength and solace long after they leave the school to face the world.

**PEOPLE – We believe in the values we want to nurture in our pupils and so strive to ensure we employ people who share in our aspirations.**

Non-violence in speech, deed and thought allows us to work together to the mutual development and benefit of all people who play and work in the school. Our pupils blossom, if the people who nurture them blossom.

**WELFARE – We believe the welfare of all our pupils is at the heart of their eventual success because a happy child is a flourishing child.**

All pupils in each year are placed in one of the three Houses with one Tutor in charge who is also a member of the same House. They will be responsible for the health, welfare, progress and achievement of a small group of pupils in the year. Parents will have regular meetings with them to discuss and work together to support the development of the child. We strive to keep the same tutor until the child finishes their GCSEs so we hope that this will create a level of trust and mutual bond which will allow the child to flourish.

**Nilesh Manani**