***The Swaminarayan School* enables pupils to obtain excellent standards in their work and to develop outstanding qualities as young people. They combine this with achieving excellent results in public examinations throughout the school.**

Independent Schools Inspectorate

October 2014

The Swaminarayan School was founded in 1991 by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj to provide education along the lines of independent British schools, whilst reinforcing Hindu culture and tradition. It is a non-profit making co-educational school for children aged two and a half to eighteen years. We admitted our first eighty or so pupils in the Prep School in September 1992 and decided to open the Senior School the following September because of parental demand. There are around 465 pupils in the school. Our students regularly gain admission to some of the finest universities in the country, including Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, LSE, King’s, Queen Mary and Warwick.

Since those early days excellent progress has been made in all areas. The most striking aspect that always attracts comment from visitors is the purposeful atmosphere, both in classrooms and throughout the school. This excellent behaviour of pupils together with the generous staffing ratio and commitment from parents allows our teachers to help pupils to achieve their full potential. The latest inspection, carried out in October 2014 by the **Independent Schools Inspectorate, judged** **the school** **as being excellent in all areas,** confirming its position as one of the best independent schools in the country.

The Foundation Stage includes the Kindergarten for the rising threes, Nursery for the rising fours and Reception for the rising five year olds. The inspection report is highly complementary of Early Years, “The EYFS setting makes **outstanding** provision in meeting the needs of the range of children who attend. The contribution of the Early Years provision to children’s well-being is **outstanding**. The overall quality and standards of the early years provision are **outstanding**.” The preparatory school embraces the most desirable elements of the National Curriculum while developing the best practices of independent education. All pupils finish this stage of their education at Year 6 with the Key Stage 2 SATs examinations.

The cultural subjects unique to the school give it a special dimension – students have lessons in the Indian Performing Arts up to Year 8 and they study Gujarati and Religious Studies in Hinduism up to GCSE level. Many in the Senior School go on to complete Diplomas in Dance and Tabla. At Key Stage 4, all pupils are entered for GCSEs in up to twelve subjects. Many of the pupils return in the sixth form to study a variety of ‘A’ levels and then go on to Universities. “**Excellent** teaching throughout the school supports pupils’ academic progress, and provides a good focus on meeting different pupils’ needs. Both at GCSE and in the sixth form, **pupils benefit from first class curricular arrangements**, and from a wide-ranging programme of activities. At GCSE pupils achieve **three times as many A\*/A grades** as the national average. At A Level the proportion of pupils gaining **A\*/B was higher than the national average** for maintained schools.” This academic rigour is supported by external tests such as LAMDA, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads and Mathematics Challenge. Every week pupils take part in either Kayaking, Canoeing, Sailing, Archery, Ice Skating, Fencing, Caving, Golfing, Climbing or Snowboarding in a packed clubs programme.

Although the day starts formally at 8.30am with morning assembly, parents may deliver their children by 8.00am. A cooked, vegetarian meal is provided at midday for all pupils and each week’s menu is varied and balanced to provide western and Indian foods. A late-stay facility up to 5.15pm is provided for Prep School children whose parents are not able to collect them earlier.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of extracurricular activities including clubs, sports, Drama & dance performances. An extensive programme of instrumental lessons is also on offer to all pupils. Teachers arrange regular day trips to museums, parks and other places of educational interest. Residential outings that include outdoor activities are also a feature of the school. “The contribution of curricular and extra-curricular provision is **excellent**. The quality of leadership and management, including links with parents, carers and guardians, is **excellent**. The leadership of the school provides a clear moral compass, which guides every aspect of school life. The quality of governance is **excellent**. Governors bring considerable commitment and expertise to their work.”

**Headmaster, Mr Manani attributed ISI findings to the**

**collective efforts of everyone involved with the School. “The credit for this success goes to our teamwork – committed and dedicated staff supported by governors, trustees, hardworking pupils and parents who recognise the**

**value of education.”**