**Mumbai: Jamnabai Narsee School**

* Thank you Principal and good afternoon everyone.
* I want to start with a little quiz:
* Jawaharlal Nehru
* Indira Gandhi
* and Manmohan Singh…

…were all Prime Ministers of India. But can anyone here tell me what else they have in common?

* **They all went to university in the UK.**
* When I was your age I didn’t know what I wanted to be when I grew up, never mind where I wanted to go to university.
* The careers advisor at my school said that I should be a TV repairman!
* Fortunately I was able to go to university, at Exeter. JK Rowling went there too, and she wrote Harry Potter so it must be good!
* After I graduated I had the opportunity to go and work overseas, and ended spending a lot of time working all around the world.
* It was a great opportunity, because spending time away from your home country really opens your eyes – you learn a lot more than you do at home.
* That’s why I want you all to think about whether you’d like to go to university in the UK. Let me give you **three reasons why**.
* **First reason: the quality of the education.**
* The UK is home to some of the world’s best universities.
* Four of the world’s top 10
* 30 of the world’s top 200
* **Breadth and depth of excellence** in many fields.
* UK is a place where academic excellence meets innovative education.
* **92 per cent** of postgraduate students in the UK rate the quality of teaching positively.
* But don’t just take other people’s word for it: you can try out content from nearly 30 top UK universities, for free, on MOOC platform **FutureLearn.**
* Nearly three million people already have – you don’t have to be 18 to take part, lots of younger people are already learning.
* **Second reason: the quality of the experience**
* There’s nowhere quite like Britain:
* **Culture:** music, museums, galleries, festivals, theatre.
* **Sport:** Anyone here a Man Utd fan?
* **History and heritage:** From Stonehenge to
Giant’s Causeway to Edinburgh Castle
* And you get a truly international experience: the UK is a diverse, multicultural society.
* A **home from home,** with a large Indian diaspora. Recently saw huge Diwali celebrations in Trafalgar Square and in communities across the country.
* America has some great universities, it’s true. But do you really want to spend the best years of your life in a country that doesn’t understand cricket?
* And take it from one who knows – I’ve tried a lot of so-called Indian food everywhere from Singapore to Moscow, and apart from India, it’s hard to beat the UK!
* **Third reason: the long-term benefits for you**
* You get a better education for less money.
* **British degrees are normally shorter** than in other countries, three year undergraduate, one year Masters.
* The **fees are generally less in the UK than in the US or Australia**: HSBC research said the UK was the cheapest of the most common study destinations.
* A recent survey found that UK degrees are highly valued internationally: **a passport to global success**.
* Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge were rated the most employable in the world
* LSE, Imperial College London and the University of Manchester all made the top ten.
* And here in India, UK-educated graduates achieve an average starting salary **three times larger** than those who qualify here.
* **Studying in the UK is an amazing, life-changing experience.** And the UK government wants to make sure the best Indian students have the opportunity to enjoy it.
* Chevening is the British Government’s flagship global scholarship programme. There are more than 2,000 Chevening alumni in India, an incredible network to be a part of.
* India is home to the world’s largest Chevening programme:
* **£2.6 million** budget for 2015-16, that’s about **a quarter of a billion rupees**.
* But that’s not the only help available:
* The British Council offers 400 **GREAT scholarships** each year.
* **Commonwealth Scholarships,** funded by the Department for International Development, support 75 Indian postgraduate students each year
* The UK offers a warm welcome to prospective students.
* **Nearly nine out of 10 visa applications** from overseas students are approved.
* Only citizens of the USA and China receive more student visas than India.
* **Top graduates are able to stay in the UK if they secure a graduate job**: in the year ending 2013, over 4,000 students switched to a work visa.
* So it’s no surprise that the UK attracts **more overseas students than any other country** except the US – including more than 20,000 from India.
* Happy to take any questions you may have – but the real question is why wouldn’t you want to study in the UK?!