

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Eager Anticipation

Traditionally, the start of the summer term at Thomas Jones is exemplified by the notion of eager anticipation. From April to July, everything is at its most rewarding. With punnets of strawberries at Sports Day, June's string recital, the staging of the Year 6 play and the Nursery venturing to Kensington Palace Gardens for their annual Teddy Bear's Picnic, there is always a frisson. Earlier this week, Year 1 took advantage of the glorious sunny weather to explore the Tower of London. Attired exquisitely and wearing our signature midnight bucket hats, pupils' assiduous demeanour elicited compliments from members of the public and the Yeoman Warders who guard the Crown Jewels.

Leather on Willow

*'Now in April to the wicket,
Out I march with bat and pad'*

A.E. Housman

Last month, the hockey team were crowned borough champions. This reflects the skill and tenacity of the squad and deft touch of coach Ms Isabella Vinci. Attention now turns to tennis and the beautifully idiosyncratic game of cricket.

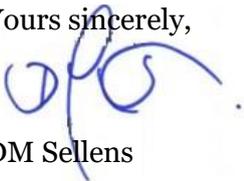
Custodians of Aspiration

Recently, Year 6 immersed themselves in Maya Angelou's *On the Pulse of Morning* and Emily Dickinson's *Hope is the Thing with Feathers*, both rich and multi-faceted works of poetry. Next, they will focus on the prologue from Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*. It is crucial that, periodically, we shift the dynamic of what is taught. Last year, John Keats' *Bright Star* was studied with aplomb and in the previous May, Philip Larkin's *The Whitsun Weddings* beguiled and inspired in equal measure. We live in an age that sometimes avoids embracing the complex. It is my view that we have a responsibility to avoid this. We are, after all, the custodians of every pupil's aspirations.

Visceral Teaching and Exacting Attendance

Priorities going forward are to safeguard and sustain what has been achieved, and where possible, to further improve. Our professional development programme is triggered by rigour and an uncompromising set of standards. Visceral teaching continues to be the most influential factor. Attendance from September 2021 to April 2022 is 97%. This remarkable achievement is further testimony to the fact that pupils want to learn, with many not missing a single lesson.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens