

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

So Long, Farwell

Thomas Jones was one of the first schools in the country to introduce healthy and, where possible, organic lunches for children. We have certainly come a long way, with the quality of provision transformed over the last 20 years. Earlier this week, pupils were served freshly baked rosemary loaf, lemon and apricot couscous, lentil and basil puff pastry turnover and wholemeal peach crumble with yogurt. The baked sprouting broccoli I sampled on Tuesday is amongst the finest I've tasted. At every opportunity the staff team promote, encourage and cajole pupils to eat well. Please support us by encouraging your child to drink plenty of plain water to remain hydrated.

Sadly, two of the long-serving members of our kitchen team, Chef Donald Pottinger and his redoubtable assistant Richard Jeffrey, will retire at the end of next week. We will send them on their way with a huge amount of dignity and affection, in a special assembly on Wednesday afternoon. Everybody will miss them.

The Greatest of Gifts


'One of the greatest gift an adult can give, it to read with a child'

With only a few weeks remaining of the autumn term, please read with your child as much as possible. The stronger pupils become as readers, their capacity to learn will be enhanced. Consider visiting the library or one of the nearby bookshops. For older individuals, delving into the National Geographic magazine or The 'T' newspaper will reap rewards.

Priorities going forward are, as always, to sustain the quality of what has been achieved and to further improve. I want all pupils to shine. Gaps and anomalies in learning must be remedied. The thrust of our professional development programme is triggered by rigour and an uncompromising set of standards and the scrutiny of outcomes remains absolute. Insightful, visceral teaching is, by far, the single most influential factor and the most ambitious venture continues to be the revisiting of precisely what is taught. It is more prudent than ever to consider what is afforded pupils and to re-invent. To this end, the words of T.S Eliot resonate.

*'We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to know the place for the first time'*

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens