Dear Parents and Carers,

**Cobalt Sky**
‘A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.’

T.S. Eliot’s The Ariel poems

There is no denying that it has been exquisitely cold these last few weeks. Yesterday’s spectacular cobalt sky was sublime. I hope that during the forthcoming holidays, the fine winter weather continues, affording opportunities to venture into London’s many parks and gardens for a brisk walk or gentle stroll.

**Sustained Success**
It has been an incredibly rewarding year, culminating in the staging of Charles Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’. Attendance over the last twelve months has been 98%. We’ve successfully promoted a number of charities, most recently raising funds for Centre Point, an organisation that supports young homeless people. The quality of cello, violin, piano and choir has further transcended, validated on a number of occasions in recent months. End of Key Stage 2 academic outcomes are amongst the top 2% in the country. The fact that we are so oversubscribed, with long waiting lists for every class, should not be taken for granted.

**Humbled by Your Kindness**
Rapidly approaching the end of another calendar year, I think it appropriate to pause and take pride in the shared values that bind us. 2017 will always be remembered at Thomas Jones as the year of the Grenfell Tower fire and the loss of so many residents, including former pupils 20 year old Yasin and 15 year old Nur-Huda El-Wahabi and their family. The school had a remarkably positive relationship with the community before the fire, but if anything, it has become stronger. The Leadership Team and I have frequently been humbled by the extent of your kindness and encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

DM Sellens