

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ
020 7727 1423 | www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk

Friday 23rd February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Robust Pupils

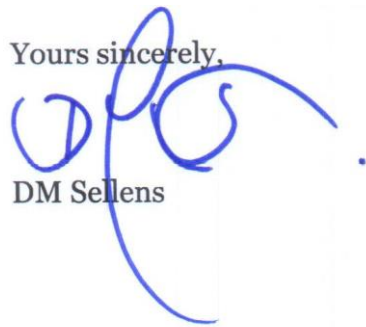
'Life Can Only Be Understood Backwards But It Must Be Lived Forwards'

Soren Kierkegaard

Thomas Jones, in its recent past, and in the present, represents something that is the antithesis of myopic, a genuine seat of learning and an institution that is, at its best, exacting. Held up as an exemplar in some quarters, it would be all too easy to take for granted what has been established. In 2018, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that all pupils are sufficiently robust. The capable should be challenged to become more accomplished. If pupils do not achieve, we have failed. Progress is relevant but it means little if they do not shine.

Consider too what I sometimes refer to as the 'third dynamic'. This component appears as a constant in Year 6 English lessons. It makes regular appearances in assemblies, staff briefings and interactions with pupils, colleagues and parents. It is the existential element and pertains to the notions of identity, truth and beauty. The challenge is to trigger pupils' intellect and to enhance their willingness to embrace the non-linear. It is our purpose to ignite reflection and excitement about nature, the universe and what a human being can be. This includes assisting pupils to avoid becoming a stereotype. In its purest form, it is also about teaching them how to question.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens