

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Cloathed in Frize**

*'Lastly, came Winter, cloathed all in frize,  
Chattering his teeth for cold that did him chill,  
Whilst on his hoary beard his breath did freese'*

Edmund Spencer

There is no denying that it has been rather wet of late. I hope that during the forthcoming holiday there is crisp, fine weather, affording opportunities to venture to a museum or gallery or one of London's many parks and gardens for a brisk walk or gentle stroll. Ideally, I'd also like it to snow, even if just a few flakes, to add a certain yuletide frisson.

## **Sustained Success**

It has been an incredibly rewarding year. Attendance over the last twelve months has been an astonishing 98%. We've promoted a number of charitable organisations, most recently the Devon Donkey Sanctuary. Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 are amongst the top 2% in the country. The fact that we are so incredibly oversubscribed, with long waiting lists for every class, should not be taken for granted. The performing arts, music and sport continue to be particular strengths.

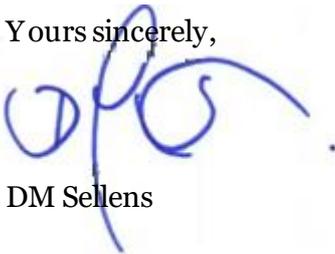
## **Visceral Message**

Last week pupils shone in both of our Christmas concerts. Everything from the string quartet and choir, to the exquisite staging of the nativity exuded quality. As is the tradition at Thomas Jones, we endeavour to interpolate inventive elements at such events. This year we again revisited a dynamic that goes some way towards capturing the linguistic diversity of the school. Candlelit, the concerts began in hushed tones with an international address in different languages, including Greek, Italian and German. It is the view of the leadership team that the message remains as visceral, no matter what language one says it in.

*'Peace on earth and goodwill to all'*

That line resonates hugely and the notion of looking outward and of being intrinsically inclusive. Living in an age that can be so arch and grasping, each and every one of us can transcend and become more selfless, challenging the myopic and intolerant and celebrating shared values and those qualities that can make for a gentler and more forgiving world.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens