

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 21st December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once Bereft of Wet and Wildness
*'What would the world be, once bereft,
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
Oh, let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wildness yet'*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

There is no denying that it has been rather wet these last few days. I hope that during the forthcoming holidays there is fine weather, affording opportunities to venture into London's many parks and gardens for a brisk walk or a gentle stroll.

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 Centre Point. Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 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. Sport, music and the performing arts 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 Legend of the Little Fir Tree exuded quality. As is the tradition at Thomas Jones, we endeavour to interpolate inventive elements to events such as the above. This year we revisited a dynamic that, to some degree, captures the linguistic diversity of the school. Candlelit, the concerts began in hushed tones with an international address in different languages, including Russian and Italian. 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 so powerfully, the notion of looking outward and of being intrinsically inclusive. Living in an age that can be arch and grasping, each and every one of us can transcend and become more selfless, challenging the myopic and intolerant and by celebrating shared values and those qualities that can make for a gentler and more forgiving world.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens