

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 22nd November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We Will Remember

*'Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and Royal
Sings sorrow into immortal spheres'*

At 10.50 on Monday 11th November, pupils and staff silently assembled to contemplate Armistice Day and the words of Laurence Binyon's sonnet 'For the Fallen'. Embracing the opportunity to pause and reflect, the focus was the Second World War and in particular the exploits of the ordinary men and women who, against seemingly insurmountable odds, ventured across the English Channel in 1940 to rescue the soldiers trapped on the beaches at Dunkirk.

On-Going Success

Last weekend, Thomas Jones once again appeared in the Sunday Times Newspaper's list of 'Top Schools'. Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 have been consistently strong for many years. We do not ever assume or take for granted such success. The challenge year-on-year does not diminish. If anything, with the further tweaking of tests and tasks by the Department for Education, it has become more complex. The manner in which we execute teaching and learning reflects our capacity to prioritise resources and time. The strategies employed are sophisticated. Everything is considered. Ultimately, the remarkable results reflect pupils' willingness to embrace what is organised, parents' trust and, most important by far, the insight of a talented and inventive staff team, who work tirelessly and do not collude in anything that could even vaguely be described as dull or predictable.

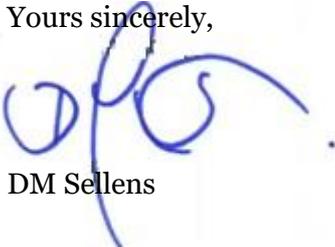
'I Can't Wait to Start!'

The above are the words of a prospective new pupil, spoken earlier this week, while on a tour with her parents. The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2020 is Wednesday January 15th. If the sheer volume of enquiries from a universally discerning group of parents over the last couple of months is anything to go by, we are expecting an awful lot of applications. In recent years those naming us as their 1st choice school has been humbling, with a five-year mean average of 250 applications per year for 30 places.

An Immersive Experience

Clad in Victorian garb, Year 6 recently ventured to an interactive workshop at The Ragged School in Mile End. I gather the journey attracted its fair share of curiosity from commuters on the tube, many of whom complimented pupils on their attire and demeanour. It is no exaggeration to describe the experience at the museum as immersive, attending an 1840-style lesson and learning about the harsh reality of life as a child in that era. The following day, led by Ms Molly Manners, twenty sports enthusiasts set off for the O2 Arena NITTO World Tour Tennis Championship. Year 5 scholar Ruben Michaud described the day as 'exhilarating - in fact, so riveted were my friends and I, that not one of us asked to go to the loo, despite the fact the match lasted three hours'.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens