

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 28th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Final Hurrah

Today we say a heartfelt final farewell to long serving Senior Administrative Officer Mrs Yvonne Hoy, who is retiring. Mrs Hoy has worked at Thomas Jones for 25 years. In the context of a London school, where even the most seasoned of colleagues rarely remain in post for much longer than a decade, this makes Mrs Hoy a veritable legend.

Since being appointed as Head in 2001, it is no exaggeration to say that the success the school has enjoyed is as a consequence of a huge amount of ambition and hard work on the part of staff - Mrs Hoy has been a key player in this accomplishment and everybody will miss her greatly. On a personal note, I am grateful to her for everything but especially the minutiae, the extras and more idiosyncratic elements to the job, those strands that ultimately have made such a positive difference.

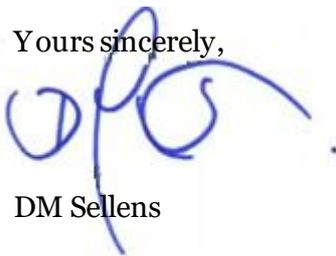
Devon Donkey Sanctuary

In recent months, the school raised £500 towards the above charitable organisation. The focus of fund-raising beyond our generic book fund, has tended to be in support of various charities that help young people, who, for one reason or another have found themselves living rough. In consultation with the school's pupil councillors, we will endeavour to continue to raise funds annually for a designated charity. At this juncture, I do not know what this will be but rest assured our single minded resolve is undiminished.

In Demand

As a Department for Education designated Teaching School, we have once again hosted a number of visitors, who have spent time absorbing what we do in regard to rigour. Teachers, senior leaders and educationists have observed lessons and engaged in professional development. It has long been my view that far from presenting an extra dynamic, this initiative, whilst not linear, is symbiotic and ensures we remain robust and accountable. It is imperative that, in a climate that can so frequently be insular, Thomas Jones is steadfast in its aspiration to support our colleagues in other settings. It is worth mentioning that we have been approached to be filmed later in the year. The filmmaker is keen to capture how we teach literature, phonics and writing. I gather the film will be part of a much bigger project that attempts to show aspiring teachers how to engage and excite children in their learning.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens