

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Oversubscribed

*'On whose forbidden ear,
The distant strains of triumph
Break, agonising, clear'*

From 'Success' by Emily Dickinson

Thomas Jones is full to capacity with long waiting lists for every class. There were eight applications for each Reception place last month (30 Reception places). This bodes well for the future and is testimony to the school's on-going success. It is worth mentioning that a large proportion of prospective parents and carers cite our warm and inclusive ethos as a key factor in their decision to apply.

Accountability

It is hard to comprehend that a year has passed since we last formally approached pupils, families, staff, governors and the wider community to express views in regard to the quality of what is afforded. Shortly, the Leadership Team will begin the invaluable process of scrutinising opinions and ideas as part of an annual review that will impact on our Evaluation Document and Improvement Plan. The notion of complacency is anathema.

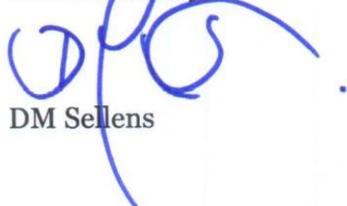
Assiduous Learning Ethic

Minister of State for School Standards, Mr Nick Gibb MP, wrote to pupils and staff earlier this week, highlighting the fact that Thomas Jones continues to be amongst the top 3% of schools in the country, in terms of the progress made between Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. When analysing the above, a few simple truths resonate. First, the powerful tri-partite relationship that exists between pupils, parents and the school. Last year's scholars immersed themselves in learning, consistently demonstrating an assiduous ethic, frequently disarming their peers and teachers with a desire to delve and explore well beyond the curriculum. Their capacity to read The Guardian with aplomb and to discuss at length a variety of subjects established a platform from which, seemingly, anything was possible.

Prodigious Endeavour

The manner in which our pupils so effusively commit is humbling. This is especially so with children as young as four years of age, demonstrating an ardent desire to immerse themselves in learning. Attendance across the school from September 2018 to the end of last week is 98%. There are a high number of pupils who have not missed a single day of school. The correlation between pupils who have strong attendance and remarkable achievement is irrefutable. Sometimes even missing a single lesson will present a challenge. Please continue be as supportive as possible in ensuring your child attends school every day and avoid at all costs taking your child out of school during term time.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens