

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 8th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Splendour of a Cobalt Sky

*'With oak and autumn leaves, ashes floating,
In the moonless night they ride into star clusters,
Then fade from sight'*

With the exquisite weather affording an opportunity to wear a scarf and overcoat, staff have encouraged pupils to immerse themselves in the moment this weekend, breathing in the crisp morning air and pausing to contemplate the simple splendour of a cobalt sky.

Moustaches and Exceptional Rendition

Yesterday, our Year 4 scholars immersed themselves in an exceptionally inventive rendition of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Clad in an array of intricate costumes representing faeries and woodland sprites, this talented group of children exuded confidence from the outset. Ms Verity Handyside's unerring determination not to compromise and to see each and every pupil shine brightly, delivering lines in the original Middle English with such aplomb, is humbling. Thanks to your generosity, today's 'Moustache for November' event raised £500 towards the Cancer Research Charity.

Baby News

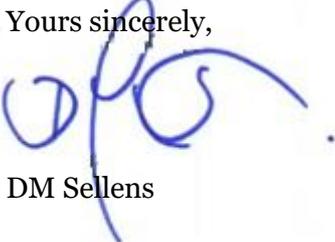
I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Lidia Guernieri, who is expecting her first child. Despite being incredibly excited in regard to the above, rest assured, it will remain 'business as usual' for each and every Year 5 scholar in the coming months until Ms Guernieri goes on maternity leave.

Clarity of Purpose and Dulcet Tones

Recent visitors have effusively commented on the clarity of purpose that is so powerfully evident in lessons. From the start of September to the end of last week, attendance across the school is 98%. Positives aside, the Leadership Team will shortly revisit the Improvement Plan to critically evaluate what has been achieved. Looking ahead, we will, once again, request your assistance in appraising relative strengths and weaknesses. In the meantime, rigour and aspiration remain absolute.

One of my favourite days at Thomas Jones is Wednesday, when the sounds of cello, violin and piano can be heard in the east wing of the school building. Younger pupils are determined to emulate the success of their more deft, older peers, practising far beyond what is expected. Rehearsals for both end of term concerts have begun in earnest. Choir Master Mr Miles Cruz is adamant that 2019 will be 'even more exacting than last year'.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens