

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Eager Willingness
'Returning, we hear larks'

Isaac Rosenberg

Reception, Year 1 and the Year 6 scholars returned to Thomas Jones last week. The school's risk assessment plan was executed with aplomb and social distancing adhered to. Pupils have shone, and their eagerness to embrace 'being back' is humbling. There is no denying that the incessant speculation surrounding schools has been debilitating, with hearsay, rumour and misinformation abounding. The Leadership Team erred on the side of caution for as long as possible. Attention to detail, routine, consistency and an inherent affirmation to remain pragmatic will continue to be the cornerstones of our strategy going forward.

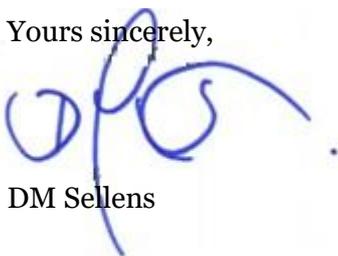
In Our Hearts Once More
*'Oh, imagine if we could but
Turn back and undo
All the suffering'*

Next Sunday is the third anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire. As most of you are aware two years ago we landscaped an area of the school grounds, now referred to as The Orchard. Five fruit trees were planted here in memory of former pupils Yasin and Nur Huda El-Wahabi, their younger brother Mehdi and parents Abdulaziz and Faouzia. Curation was led by Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson in consultation with surviving members of the family, including Year 7 student Sara Chebiouni, who recently contacted us to share a poem that she had composed, some lines of which appear above. This important project is a lasting memorial. In the current climate it is not possible for us to have an assembly. On this occasion, pupils will reflect during two minutes of silence. On behalf of all staff I'd like to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt wishes to everybody who was affected by what happened on that dreadful night.

So Long, Farewell

Ms Zoe Byrne and Ms Molly Manners will depart at the end of term. In the last five years Zoe has been steadfast in her resolve to champion the notion of quality. Her kind and sunny disposition have been a tonic. Molly has transformed the cohorts she has taught with insight and a deft touch. Both teachers have diligence and exactitude in abundance and will be greatly missed. In March The Leadership Team recruited Ms Melissa Kiley, a professional with a proven track record of accomplishment and many years of experience, to teach Year 2. Ms Rachel McCombe was appointed at the same time. Ambitious, highly skilled and with a background in music, Rachel will teach Year 1.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens