

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ
020 7727 1423 | www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

An Audience with Her Majesty the Queen

Yesterday, Ms Verity Handyside and Year 4 pupils, participated in a science seminar, meeting via Zoom technology, with Her Majesty the Queen, and an array of experts in their respective fields, including celebrated physicist, Dr Margaret Aderin-Pocock, MBE and Professor Caroline Smith, the Head of Collections at the Natural History Museum and a key member of the NASA Mars Research Team. The group discussed the recent landing of the Perseverance Rover and shared exclusive images of the planet's surface. They also considered recent meteorite activity and scrutinised fragments that had fallen to Earth. The children made and launched a rocket during the workshop.

Remaining Pragmatic

'Oh, ever returning spring'

Walt Whitman

All pupils returned on Monday. There was an undeniable effusive frisson. Perhaps most profoundly this was evident in regard to younger children and Year 6. If those in the Early Years were feeling a sense of trepidation, it was not apparent. The scholars were buoyed at the prospect of being back in class, eager to resume a veritable 'rite of passage' in their final year before departing for secondary school. We are forever mindful of the fact that there are no guarantees as to how things may develop. So, whilst everybody, pupils and staff alike, are keen to immerse themselves in 'le grand retour', we remain pragmatic and cautious.

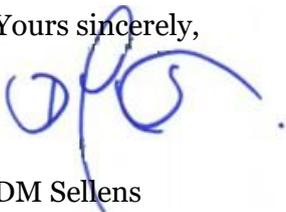
Strings, Piano and Exactitude

Earlier this week, peripatetic music lessons resumed. Impressed and disarmed in equal measure, such was the quality of the sounds emanating from the school's west wing. I'm loathe to single out individuals for praise but it would be wholly remiss not to mention the remarkably deft turns from older pupils. They set the bar high and showcased a near-perfect example of what can be achieved if ambition and tenacity are absolute.

Rugby

Congratulations are due to Sports Coach Ms Ana Cheang and PE Co-ordinator Ms Polly Holmes. Training in driving rain, sleet and last month snow, pupils have definitely earned their stripes and a place at the proverbial top table. It is, though, their camaraderie and aspiration for one another that is so humbling. I cannot begin to capture how proud everybody is of a group of children who have given so much and committed with such energy. It is such a shame that on this occasion we cannot compete in any tournaments.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens