

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Athletics**

*'With hope in our hearts,  
And wings on our heels'*

Both summer athletics tournaments, the first on Wednesday, the other yesterday, were, in the wise words of Sports Leader Ms Polly Holmes 'joyfully exacting'. I could not attend the former but gather it was sublime, with much camaraderie and competitive spirit. I attended the junior races, which were exceptionally gentle and inclusive. Hurrah to a return to normality. Let us hope that by this time next year, a wider audience can once more, gather at such events.

## **Practice Does Indeed Make Perfect**

At Thomas Jones, it is rare to focus on an individual child in a newsletter. Earlier in the week an animated Deputy, Ms Lindsay Johnson requested I join her to listen to Year 2 piano virtuoso Rachel Shen sitting her Grade 3 exam, performing pieces by Edward Elgar. I was disarmed. Some pupils shine as clay sculptors or painters or excel in tennis or dance. Whilst we do everything possible to ensure equity remains paramount, there also has to be an acceptance that when somebody does something truly remarkable, it is celebrated. In Rachel's case, I applaud her guile, committing up to two hours each day to her instrument - an example that practice indeed does make perfect.

## **Close to the End**

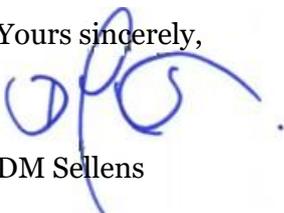
*'And where you are,  
You can hear  
Their dreams'*

From the reading comprehension paper, to the mathematics and reasoning exam, our Year 6 scholars tackled the final assessments of the year with ardent endeavour. The outcomes are strong. In regard to writing, imaginary diary extracts inspired by the miracle of Dunkirk and essays that explore Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* demonstrate inventiveness. One important factor in their success is an unerring willingness to read quality literature. This has influenced the vocabulary that is used, and grasp of the nuances of English grammar. Rehearsals have begun for the forthcoming staging of *Under Milk Wood*. It is hard to comprehend that the children in this class will shortly depart. They add such a visceral dynamic. To steal a line from Pierre Boule, 'We are closer to the end, than the beginning'.

## **Evaluation**

We have now collated the opinions of families and staff as part of the annual review that will inform the schools' 2021/2022 Self Evaluation Document and Improvement Plan. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this important venture.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens