

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Fifteen Days and a Splendid Fellow

With only three weeks remaining of the autumn term, please ensure that your child reads as widely as possible, ideally aloud to a family member. The stronger pupils become as readers, the more capacity they will have to probe and explore. Our Year 6 scholars should periodically be in a position to absorb a portion of the Guardian or Observer. An alternative is the National Geographic magazine, a publication that never fails to engage and stimulate.

Next Wednesday is Teaching Assistant Joe Ward's last day at Thomas Jones. After much thought, Joe has made the decision to focus exclusively on his fine art degree and the various film and design ventures that are increasingly demanding of his time. An all 'round splendid fellow, Joe has a rare intellect and sharp wit and has played a key part in developing pupils per se in the Nursery in recent years. Everybody will miss him greatly.

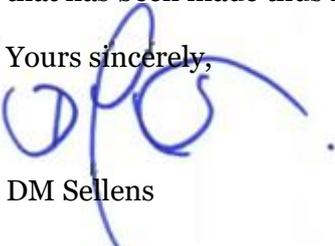
Unerring Commitment

Last weekend, Thomas Jones once again appeared in the Sunday Times' list of 'Top UK Schools'. Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 have been strong for many years. Ultimately, the remarkable results reflect pupils' assiduous ethic, parents' trust and, most important by far, the insight of a talented staff team. It would be all too easy to simply rehash that which has been successful in the past. One of the many strengths of our teachers is their unerring commitment to avoid this and instead to be forever mindful of how best to execute learning that is inventive and valid and affords a platform to embrace the abstract. This extends to art and history and science and perhaps most profoundly the literature that is taught.

Curriculum Scrutiny

Senior leaders, Ms Emma Jones and Ms Abi Kantoch were, a year ago, tasked with ascertaining whether or not our curriculum robustly withstood scrutiny against the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework. This initiative continues to be one of the main priorities for the school. The period between April and October 2020 was hugely productive, with subject leaders allocated precise tasks to complete. In colloquial terms, we did what we always do in times of challenge – crudely, turned an obtuse dynamic on its head and made the best of the situation. The progress that has been made thus far bodes well.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens