



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

Merchant Taylors' Schools Swimming Club

President - John Smallcombe

Newsletter - April 2010

A warm welcome to all members of the Swimming Club, both existing and new, and hope you have enjoyed the Easter Break.

1. Club Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Chairman | - Janet Thorpe | 0151 924 2367 |
| Membership Secretary | - Lisa Clayson | 0151 924 9856 |
| Secretary | - Ian Turnbull | 0151 928 5353 |
| Treasurer | - Belinda Woodier | 01704 877344 |

Committee Members:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Paula Briggs | Pam Hanlon | Allan Jones |
| Brian McEvelly | Carmel Noonan | David Suarez |

If there are any issues concerning MTSSC that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the above.

2. Timetable

Merchant Taylors' Schools have recently amended a number of the operating procedures for the school pool on the grounds of Health and Safety. The club has to implement these procedures, which as a result has necessitated a small number of changes to the timetabling of sessions. (A copy of these procedures is located behind the desk at the poolside).

Groups 1 and 2

From 4th April 2010, swimmers in **Groups 1 and 2** will no longer be able to attend the 5.30 - 6.45pm session on Friday evenings.

Group 1 and 2 Swimmers were originally invited to attend this session when numbers in the club were much lower, but due to the increase in numbers of swimmers in the higher ability levels we unfortunately have to close this session to Group 1 and 2 swimmers. However the available sessions for swimmers in these groups will remain as:

Saturday: 11.30 am to 12.30pm

and

Sunday: 9.30 am to 10.30 am

Squad and Pre-Squad

The Sunday session for squad and pre-squad swimmers will now start half an hour earlier i.e. from 10.00am, with the session now finishing at 12.00 noon

We apologise for any inconvenience that these timetabling changes may cause. For all other groups there are no changes to the timetable.

Please also be aware that the children are welcome to attend any (or all!) of their level sessions and are not just restricted to one particular day. However if children are not swimming on a regular basis, their swimming skills may be subject to a reappraisal, which in turn may lead in a move to a different ability level session.

Finally, it is extremely important that swimmers who have been allocated to a particular time session i.e. Friday 4.00 or 4.45pm for Beginners, Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 swim at that time. This is due to the strict ratio of numbers of children per teacher that the club is bound by. Your co-operation in adhering to set session times would be much appreciated. Failure to adhere to this may result in your child being unable to swim for that session.

3. Poolside

If we could remind you (once again!), of the school policy regarding safety and health and hygiene around the pool:

- In the interests of safety, please can parents and helpers ensure that children swimming in the first session on Friday (4.00pm) do not go onto the poolside until the coaches are waiting by the pool. This is in accordance with the rules of Merchant Taylors' Schools.
- Children waiting for their lesson to start should remain seated on the benches, and not on the edge of the pool.
- No outside footwear should be worn around the poolside. This includes children and parents/helpers on the way to the changing rooms. Please use the green and yellow overshoes provided.
- We respectfully ask that fathers helping their children to get changed use the boys' changing rooms.
- Swimmers should shower before entering the pool. This reduces the amount of chemicals needed to keep the pool water safe.
- Swimmers should wear swim hats. Please be aware that the wearing of swimming hats is a requisite of the school and therefore mandatory for hygiene reasons to prevent the pool filters becoming blocked.
- Drink bottles with detachable caps should not be taken poolside (there have been incidents in other pools of swimmers choking on these caps when they get into the pool).
- All items of jewellery should be removed before entering the pool. In cases of earrings that cannot be removed, these should be taped up and concealed by a swimming cap.

- The use of mobile phones and any equipment capable of recording a digital image is strictly forbidden within the pool building (this includes Nintendo DSi consoles).

4. Communication

If you are presently reading this newsletter on your laptop then you will have discovered that the MTSSC now has a page on the school website. This new method of communication is still in its infancy (to us!) but additional information will be added in due course. It is proposed that all further newsletters will be available via this method of communication.

However, if you need to contact any of the club officers please either phone (numbers are shown on the first page) or send an eMail to mtssc@o2.co.uk.

5. Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Club's Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Monday 7th June 2010, in the Troutbeck Room in the building by the mini roundabout at the Boys School.

Please try and attend as this is where you can impact how **your** club is run, and if you are interested you could put yourself forward to join the committee and help in the running of the club.

6. Club Annual Gala 2010

The gala this year will take place on Saturday 12th June. We will provide more details nearer the date, but will follow the usual format of races followed by a buffet and prize giving.

The aim of the day as always is for the children to enjoy themselves, celebrate their progress and round off the year.

7. Club Swimwear

Swimming hats are mandatory. Club swimwear is available, but not mandatory, except for swimmers representing the club in external competition. Boys' trunks (£10), girls' costumes (£16.50) and hats (£6), all of high quality materials, are for sale poolside.

8. Summer Opening/Closing

As normal the club will be closed for August. The last session will be on Saturday 31st July and sessions will resume on Friday 3rd September 2010.