

MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOLS

Boys' Sixth Form Prospectus for Academic Year 18/19



MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

With a consistent 100% pass rate at A Level
and over two thirds of all grades at A* to B,
our academic reputation is the best in the area

A warm welcome



At Merchant Taylors' Boys' School we are extremely proud of our reputation for academic excellence. Parental surveys tell us that this is the most important criterion when choosing our school, and our excellent results at A Level in 2017 indicate that this rigour is still thriving in our school.

Results for their own sake, however, are not the only interest to us; we are small enough as a Sixth Form to invest in individuals and to provide the right academic advice and pastoral care to each of our students. The students who really enjoy their Sixth Form here also get involved in enrichment activities such as the Extended Project Qualification, Voluntary Service, and our Peer Support Programme. You can read more about these exciting initiatives in the pages that follow. Enjoyable and worthwhile enrichment will not only contribute to a student's school and local community, but also his CV or university application.

To those students who are staying with us for their Sixth Form career, please be assured that you will discover a different school experience. You will be based in the Sixth Form Centre to mark the distinction between your earlier life in the school and the Sixth Form. We also offer the best of both worlds as boys and girls can mix when they take part in drama productions, music concerts, Duke of Edinburgh, Combined Cadet Force, presentations

from specialist speakers, while still being taught in single-sex classes. We are always delighted to welcome 15-16 new students into our Sixth Form each year and they soon settle in quickly and easily. I think our students appreciate some new faces around the place! The size of our Sixth Form means that all boys get to know each other very quickly.

We do not allow our A Level students to become 'lost' with these greater freedoms -as can happen in the large and impersonal setting of a Sixth Form College. Ours is a strong community spirit where everyone knows one another and students are looked up to in their positions of responsibility by younger pupils.

In the sections that follow you can read details on all of the A Level courses we offer. These are designed to give a flavour of the work you will be doing and also hint at the myriad of enrichment and extension opportunities available to you within departments. Do feel free to email Heads of Department – details are given at the top of each departmental page – to learn more.

I am very proud to be Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' Senior Boys' School and I hope you enjoy finding out more about what we can offer you at this exciting time in your lives.

D Williams
Headmaster



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For Boys and Girls
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Why Choose Merchant Taylors'?



Outstanding Results

Our students consistently achieve outstanding A level results with over two thirds of all grades at A*/B A level study is rigorous, challenging and a fulfilling experience.

Courses

We offer the very best academic experience for our students with expert teaching and knowledge. Students excel in academic competitions such as the Oxford Physics Challenge and Biology and Chemistry Olympiads. Our History Department currently holds the Gold History Quality Mark, awarded by the Historical Association. Our Economics students were placed in the top 20 teams (out of 15000 entrants) of the School of Finance Share Dealing Competition. The AQA Extended Project Qualification has been introduced to enhance independent learning and preparation for university life.

Class Sizes 1 : 11

Classes are taught by experienced,dedicated and highly qualified teaching staff who develop strong relationships with the students.

Extra-Curricular and Enhancement

We offer the best of both worlds with boys and girls mixing at these vital and exciting extra-curricular activities. A wide portfolio of extra-curricular activities and social events develop leadership and life skills. Performances in music and drama as well as the European Youth Parliament and Debating Societies give opportunities for those so inclined to extend their intellectual horizons. The Combined Cadet Force,

Voluntary Service Unit and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme also provide further opportunities for self-development with some pupils achieving the coveted Gold Award before they leave us.

Sports

Students enjoy weekly football and rugby fixtures and cricket in the summer. All our students have access to a swimming pool and a gym for personal fitness in our £5m Sports Centre.

Pastoral Care

We are passionate about providing great pastoral care and we are able to offer our students support and specialised assistance. This team includes their Form Tutor, Subject Teachers, Departmental Heads, the Head of Sixth Form, the Deputy Head Pastoral and the Headmaster.

University and Careers – the years after school

We have a rigorous advice programme to provide guidance and support on all aspects of application to Higher Education and progression beyond into the world of work. Merchant Taylors' is almost 400 years old offers a strong heritage, as well as wide network of alumni who support current pupils. You will join an impressive list of Old Crosbeians who are always happy to offer help and advice.

Mr R A Simpson
Deputy Headmaster Academic

University Entrance



Students are advised to research their post-school career during the course of the Lower Sixth year, and although some may not have a clear idea of what they wish to do, the very process of giving it some thought will permit many options to be eliminated and allow the exploration of others. The School encourages students to get involved in summer schools, work experience and academic activities beyond the curriculum which should allow them to make informed decisions.

The formal university application process under the auspices of the centralised admissions system UCAS begins on the last Wednesday of June in the Lower Sixth year. During the day students participate in a number of workshops that enable registration with UCAS, an introduction to online university and course research, writing personal statements, student finance, scholarships and bursaries, and possible alternatives to a conventional university education. In early September of a student's U6 year, parents are invited to an overview of the university application process, including an opportunity to ask questions.

On the morning of first day of term of the Upper Sixth, there is a reprise of the UCAS registration day, now with the benefit of AS results; this allows student choices to be refined. Over the course of the following weeks, with the advice of school staff, students will complete their applications. The deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science is 15 October, and although the deadline for most other applications is 15 January of the following year, we advise students to have their applications submitted by mid-November if at all possible.

Once applications are submitted universities make conditional offers based on previous exam results, personal statements, estimated grades, school references and occasionally interviews and entrance tests. The arrival of offers can be quite unpredictable, but some will certainly arrive before the New Year and the vast majority will have been made by 31 March. After this process students are currently required to select two offers as their firm and insurance choices, and provisional arrangements are made for accommodation and finance. Conditional offers become firm once the entrance criteria are satisfied by the release of exam results in August, and with the commencement of October, the university term begins. Most University offers will continue to be made on 3 full A Levels in the light of on-going Government reform.

CONTACT: Mrs J Blease, UCAS Advisor
j.blease@merchanttaylor.com

Careers and Work Experience



Merchant Taylors' Senior Boys' School is committed to offering full support for parents and students in an age where exploring careers options has become more vital than ever for Sixth Formers. We have a dedicated, on-site Careers Advisor who has developed a resource that can be used from home or in school - www.merchanttaylors.com/careers/

Features of our careers service include:

- Opportunity to discuss career goals post 18 through one to one career guidance interviews.
- All students in Lower Sixth will complete the Centigrade questionnaire which is used to assess their interests, abilities and personal qualities. It will identify possible career sectors and match this with a range of higher education courses.
- Opportunity to attend Careers Working Lunches with representatives from a wide range of careers in business, public relations, the Arts and the sciences.
- Annual Careers Fair aimed at Year 11 and Sixth Form students.
- Lectures, working lunches, workshops and webinars, all designed to help inform and advise.
- Support with UCAS guidance - in particular course research and choices.
- Mock Interviews.
- Annual Networking Breakfast.
- We are constantly developing our network with the Old Boys and Old Girls to help support, mentor and advise.

Our aim is to provide pupils with a framework for making proper decisions about their future development; the components to this are:

1. Realistic analysis of academic interests, strengths and weaknesses
2. Accurate awareness of the nature of particular areas of study and work and the range of choice available to them
3. Access to information on courses, institutions and careers and the qualifications required to enter them
4. Access to guidance, which is both supportive and impartial and helps the individual to become aware of the options open to him and to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of particular choices

Work Experience

Work experience placements during the Sixth Form do much to inform students about employment and career options. The School has accumulated a substantial list of parents and alumni who are able to provide a wide variety of opportunities for our students. We encourage students to start thinking about their work experience early in their Sixth Form career and make enquiries early. A good number of our students then take up further placements during the summer holidays and even beyond into their undergraduate years. If you have any questions, or indeed might be able to offer a placement, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

CONTACT: Mrs V Mee, Head of Careers - v.mee@merchanttaylors.com

Competitive Applications



The majority of our students leave the School to join some of the most competitive university courses in the country. Applicants for Medicine are provided with step by step advice from the very start of their Sixth Form career, with our personalised and supportive service, and those intending to apply for the very top flight of universities are encouraged to become involved in a wide range of extracurricular academic activities. Entries for essay prizes are common, and the scientists in particular take part in formal problem solving competitions. The Historians run a society during lunchtimes, and students of English write and edit for one of the School's magazines. The Economists compete enthusiastically in the IFS Student Investor Challenge.

As the university application cycle progresses students are invited into small tutor groups to discuss aspects of their specialism in some depth. For example, prospective students of English might consider the poetry of Larkin, and the Historians the will explore aspects of History that are outside of the specification. Physicists and Mathematicians might be given problems that take them well beyond the competence expected at A Level.

All students are given considerable advice on writing personal statements and we happily provide interview practice for those in need, often in conjunction with MTGS and a number of respected professionals who give up their free time to provide bespoke preparation. We offer mock mini medical interviews and interview workshops. All applications are processed in good time, and naturally the best possible guidance is given.

**CONTACT: Mrs J Blease -
j.blease@merchanttaylor.com**

Extended Project Qualification

Specification - AQA Level 3



The Extended Project Qualification was introduced in response to concerns that A Level study was becoming regarded as too narrow by leading universities. The aim of the project is to create autonomous learners who are well prepared for university study and to enable those with genuine intellectual curiosity to study academic topics that lie outside of or beyond the A Level specifications, or that are truly cross curricular.

During the Lower Sixth, boys are briefed on the nature of the project and the advantages of providing evidence of independent study. Those who choose to begin a project submit a title and are then allocated a supervisor who will guide them through the research and drafting process. The final project, often delivered in the form of an extended essay coupled with a presentation to an audience of peers, is assessed within school before being submitted to AQA for moderation.

The topic of an EPQ is often of less significance than the skills gained from the process itself. The assessment objectives encourage candidates to reflect on their approaches to independent work and to attempt something more than a literature review. EPQs should be original and dynamic in their design, and the best ones we have processed offer a clear focal point for study that is not otherwise available. One student had to undergo training in the protocols of patient confidentiality in order to investigate case studies of histiocytosis; another developed an innovative way of surveying attitudes to socialism.

An EPQ is worth half an A Level but the intrinsic pleasure from working to deadlines and without being led by teachers is often the most rewarding aspect.

EPQs are normally worked on between the summer of the L6 and October half term in the U6 or for later submission in the May of their second year. However, some L6 students will submit projects the summer of their first year in Sixth form.

**CONTACT: Mr R Simpson -
r.simpson@merchanttaylor.com**

Pastoral



The School encourages Sixth Form students to become aware of the importance of valuable life skills such as dependability, punctuality and self-reliance. The Sixth Form pastoral system revolves around the form tutors who meet with their tutees daily. The form tutor's role is to have an overview of their tutees' academic performance and ensure that parents are kept informed of their sons' progress. From time to time they may intervene on a student's behalf to help solve problems encountered within the School, and provide a route for parents to communicate with the School. In addition to termly effort and grade assessments, formal reporting to parents occurs twice yearly.

The Sixth Form offers many opportunities for involvement in extra-curricular activities. Performances in music, drama, sport and CCF are outstanding and both the European Youth Parliament and Debating Societies give opportunities for those so inclined to extend their intellectual horizons. The Voluntary Service Unit and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme also provide further opportunities for self-development.

Both staff and pupils participate in weekly five-a-side football competitions and we have termly tournaments in basketball and football for the whole Sixth Form. Money is raised for charity through the Sixth Form Running Club where sixth formers and staff run in such events as The Santa Dash and Liverpool Half Marathon. Students elect their own committee, encouraging their involvement in the decision-making process.

Sixth formers have the opportunity to apply to be peer supporters in Year 12. If appointed, their role includes mentoring pupils new to the school in Year 7 in fortnightly lunchtime sessions for which they are trained. Those with commitments to rugby are assigned to Year 8 to help Form Tutors deliver the PHSE programme.

There is a full programme of PHSE in the Sixth Form and talks are mainly delivered by old boys on a range of topics such as Financial Planning after University, Men's Health and Wellbeing, Safe Driving and Life at University.

As a member of the Sixth Form students will be entitled to use the Sixth Form Centre in the Wylie Building, whether for work or relaxation purposes. There are fourteen booths in the study room and an Information and Communication Technology resources room. The informal area enables students to read newspapers, periodicals and partake of refreshments. The day-to-day running of the centre remains very much in the sixth formers' own hands and is a place for which they take responsibility.

CONTACT: Mr G Bonfante, Head of Sixth Form - g.bonfante@merchanttaylor.com

Art

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



The Art department is a lively and vibrant one, employing both traditional methods and new technologies to enhance the teaching of an A Level Art and Design course that encourages experimentation with a range of media and materials. The department is generously resourced: a suite of IMACs at the heart of the department enables computer-aided design; facilities exist for collagraphic printing, textiles and there is a kiln to fire ceramics on site.

Creative and independent thinkers are encouraged to pursue the A Level course. There is a growing demand for graduates with strong specialist art and design skills in industry and the media. The A Level course focuses firmly on the development of personal interests in Art that can be subsequently used to pursue careers in Architecture, Animation, Graphic Design, the Fashion Industry, Textiles and Advertising. Art also fosters research and analytical skills that complement a broad range of other A Level subjects.

Both GCSE and A Level students are encouraged to work in the department in private study periods and at lunchtime, when guidance continues to be offered by members of the department through Art Clinics and Art Club. Students are encouraged to display their work in local exhibitions and national competitions. Their artwork is displayed around the school for us to admire and to inspire our future artists.

**CONTACT: Miss B. E. Baker -
b.baker@merchanttaylor.com**

Biology

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



One of the most popular A Level choices taught by five subject specialists, Biology offers both a hands on practical side and a theory based learning programme which effectively prepares students for further education, such as Biological Sciences, Medicine, Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology. Those who wish to study courses such as Dentistry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Science would also be well suited to this A Level course.

Many students who do not wish to follow a degree based on Biology but have a curiosity in the workings of the human body, ecology and environmental matters will also enjoy the topics that the course has to offer them.

The department recommends a GCSE grade of at least an A in Biology as a requirement to begin the A level course which offers much continuity with GCSE study. Practical work takes place in three well- resourced laboratories and involves observation of biological material, both microscopic and macroscopic, or the planning and carrying out of investigations. Fieldwork complements the work done in class and there are a number of trips run by the department to enhance students' experience of the subject. The boys are also offered a unique opportunity to travel to locations such as Mexico, Indonesia and Madagascar as part of a conservation programme called Operation Wallacea.

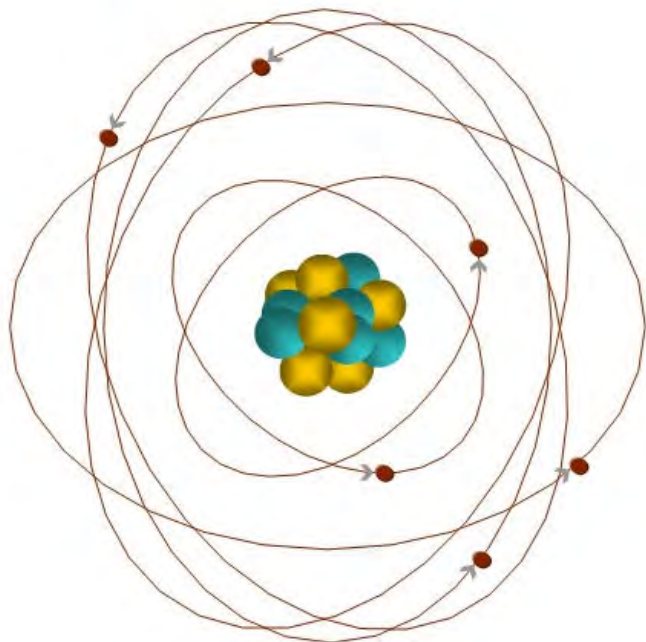
The department has an excellent track record in offering A Level student the academic enrichment and extension opportunities demanded by many university courses. These include Extended projects, Biology Olympiad, essay competitions and the activities of the Medical- Ethical Debating Society, which covers the moral issues at the heart of science courses. There is also a programme of guest speakers from different universities, and those already in their chosen careers, such as doctors, pathologists and geneticists. The Biology Department has also played a leading role in organising and supervising work experience placements in hospitals and medical practices. The A Level course comprises the study of biochemistry, cells, how organisms exchange substances with their environment, genetics and gene technologies. The course is assessed by three two hour papers at the end of Year 13 along with assessed practicals throughout the two years.

In the ever- more competitive race to secure places on science courses at reputable universities, candidates must demonstrate the capacity of self- reliance and reflection. The study of Biology at Merchant Taylors' School actively promotes these virtues and the department is rightly proud of the dedication shown by its leading students.

**CONTACT: Miss J Whitehead –
j.whitehead@merchanttaylor.com**

Chemistry

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



Chemistry is a demanding, yet rewarding A Level course, taught by 4 subject specialists in three purpose-built laboratories. An A Level in Chemistry is essential for Medicine and many other science related courses at university. As Chemistry is considered one of the most difficult A Levels, universities look favourably at this subject even if it is unrelated for courses such as Law or Economics. The minimum entrance requirement is an A at GCSE (single science). Unfortunately we are not able to take boys that have only followed Dual Award during Years 10 and 11. Even with an A*, most pupils still find the transition very demanding and any aspiring A Level Chemists will receive a work book at the end of Year 11 that should help them to prepare for the course.

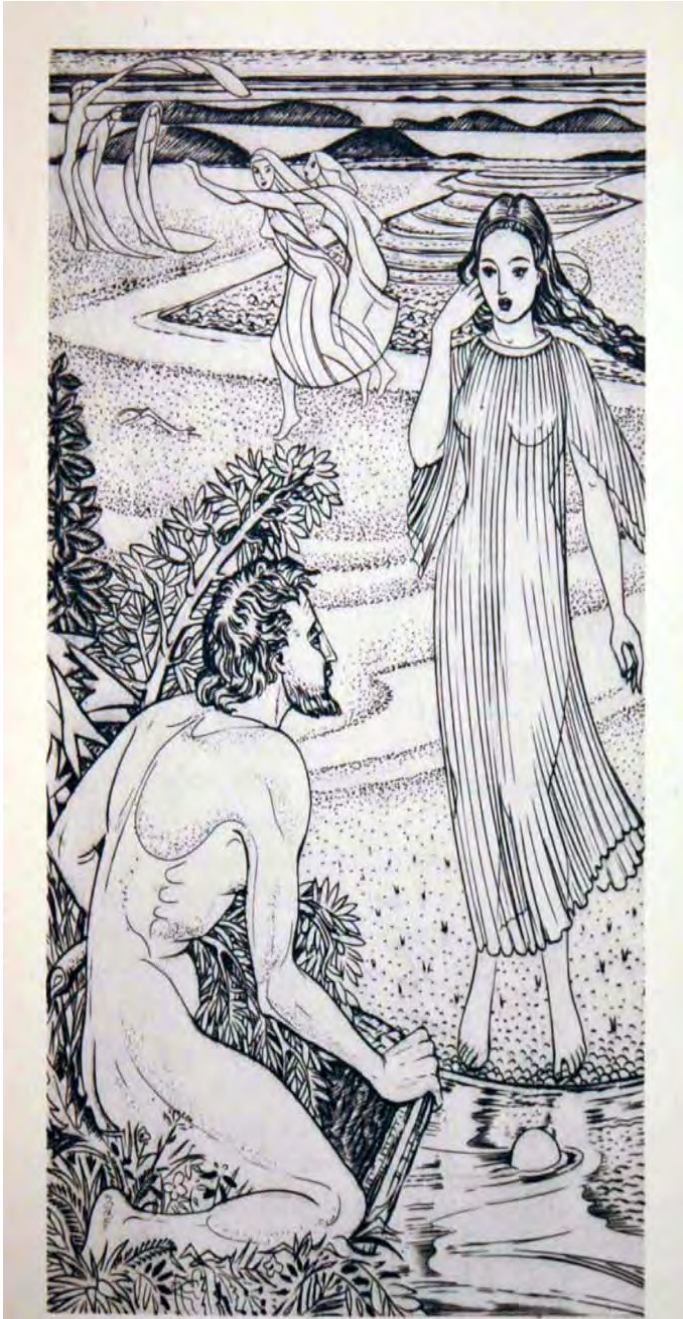
Having a keen interest and an active curiosity for the subject is prerequisite to study Chemistry at A Level. The department provides a range of enrichment and extracurricular activities to enhance the work done in class and enable pupils to demonstrate the independence of thought required to access demanding courses at top universities. During their first year, the top three chemists will be selected to represent the school in the Young Analyst Competition. At the end of the first year, every student has the opportunity to take part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and during their second year, pupils will have a chance to prepare for the first round of the international Chemistry Olympiad. Links with local and European universities are well established.

The new linear Chemistry A-Level course which started in September 2015 still revolves around the three traditional elements – Physical Chemistry (including atomic structure, kinetics and thermodynamics), Inorganic Chemistry (including group chemistry and transition metals) and Organic Chemistry (including mechanisms, synthesis and analysis). There will be an internal exam at the end of the first year, the result of which will be used to support UCAS grade predictions. The A Level itself is examined in two exams at the end of the second year. The theory is complemented by extensive practical work which does not only illustrate many aspects of the theory but will also allow all pupils to gain a pass for laboratory skills in addition to the traditional A Level grade. Although not compulsory, top universities will be looking for this pass when making offers. Effective performance at A Level will require reading and study beyond the specification and the department has shown successful stretch and challenge over the years.

CONTACT: Dr I Buschmann -
i.buschmann@merchanttaylor.com

Classical Civilisation

Specification - OCR



One of the unique advantages of Classical Civilisation is that it is open to anyone, regardless of whether a student has taken the subject at GCSE. No previous knowledge is necessary, nor will any be expected. The only qualifications required to embark on the course are an interest in ancient thought and ideas and an enthusiasm for literature. The subject may appeal to students of Art, English, RS, History, Politics and Drama as it complements many of the skills and qualities required in the study of those subjects. The course is taught entirely through the medium of English – no knowledge of Latin or Greek is necessary.

Literature and ancient history are at the heart of the course. Students study epic poetry (Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*), the birth of the theatre, philosophy, Greek drama and Greek art and architecture. Students will be expected to study, discuss, think about and form judgements on the works on the specification. An appetite for reading and for seminar-style exploration is welcome and we encourage lively debate. Students acquire important transferable skills such as analysing sources and developing independent, critical and evaluative approaches. There will be regular extramural activities including theatre trips, university lectures, competitions, museum trips and exposure to artefacts from the classical world.

Classical Civilisation is listed on UCL's list of preferred A Level subjects and also listed on Trinity College, Cambridge's list of Generally Suitable Arts A Levels. It is also cited as a useful subject for degrees in Classical Studies and Philosophy in the Russell Group 'Informed Choices' document. Information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry!

**CONTACT: Mrs S Rohrer -
s.rohrer@merchanttaylor.com**

Classical Languages (Latin and Greek)

Specification - OCR (Reformed)



Latin at A-Level follows the same broad pattern as it does at GCSE, with a mixture of language and literature. The extensive study of literature of different genres allows pupils to develop sophisticated grammatical, historical and literary criticism skills, and to reach into the heart of the ancient world through sublime literature. It fosters skills such as the ability to analyse, to defend an opinion, to argue, to present views, to write articulately and deal with complex primary sources.

Students will read two set texts: Virgil's Aeneid and Cicero's Pro Milone. There is no writing of Latin required in any part of the course. The emphasis is all on reading, understanding and appreciating the literature of the Romans in its many forms. At the end of the course you should have developed valuable analytical and communication skills and achieved some familiarity with works of literature which lie at the heart of western European culture. Latinists go on to read a range of courses at university from various classical combinations to Medicine, Law, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Land Economy, History and English Literature.

**CONTACT: Mrs S Rohrer -
s.rohrer@merchanttaylor.com**

Computer Science

Specification - OCR (Reformed)



Computer Science is offered at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School as a result of the success of the subject in the lower and middle school. GCSE Computer Science is now firmly entrenched within the school's curriculum and so A Level Computer Science will offer the chance for pupils to progress to the next level, for pupils who want to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Computing and of Computation.

The course will deliver an in-depth understanding of Computation and the ability to simulate a wide variety of scenarios through the use of algorithms and programming such as decision making, the logic of computer games and searching and sorting data. In the second year of the course pupils will have the opportunity to put this into practice when they create their own software or perform an investigation into a certain area of Computing such as 3D Rendering, Data Processing or mathematical simulation.

As well as giving pupils the power to create their own software and systems the A Level Computer Science qualification also gives pupils an understanding of how computers function. The way they represent and store data, the way they interact with their users and function as a collective group of devices in a network. Pupils will also study the impact of computers on the wider world, considering their effect on society, culture, morality and ethics.

The qualification is examined in the form of two papers: "Computer Systems" and "Algorithms and Programming" as well as a programming project that places a huge emphasis on coding software from scratch; independently researching, designing, developing and testing the end product. Whilst a GCSE in Computer Science is not a requirement pupils should have a high level of IT competency, a firm grounding in Mathematics and at least some experience of computer programming to give them the best possible chance of success in this course.

**CONTACT: Mr T Higham -
t.higham@merchanttaylor.com**

Design & Technology – Product Design

Specification – AQA (Reformed)



Taught by a specialist teacher, Product Design is at the forefront of independent learning and technological advancement. Students combine creative and scientific principles to create a marketable and innovative product. The subject is closely related to industrial and commercial standards providing transferable skills for the future; ICT, organisational, analytical and evaluative. The course includes the study of contemporary design issues, the life cycle of a product, engineering methods and resistant materials. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice using traditional craft methods alongside new technologies, CAD/CAM/CNC, using machines such as CNC lathes, Laser cutters and 3D printers.

Skills Developed

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by universities and employers.

Assessments

Paper 1

What's assessed - Technical principles

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2.5 hours
- 120 marks
- 30% of A-level

Paper 2

What's assessed - Designing and making principles

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1.5 hours
- 80 marks
- 20% of A-level

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed - Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles.

How it's assessed

- Substantial design and make project
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Evidence - Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

**CONTACT: Mr A Beddard -
a.beddard@merchanttaylor.com**

Drama and Theatre Studies

Specification – AQA (Reformed)



Drama and Theatre Studies offers a challenging yet creative opportunity to explore a range of aspects of theatre and contains both practical and examined assessments, with the former being worth 60% of the total award. The new specification asks candidates to explore the work of important dramatists and practitioners and the ability to work from a director's perspective or from a technical angle complements the more conventional actor's role.

There is no obligation for boys to have studied Drama at GCSE to be successful at A Level but they will need to possess an evaluative approach and a methodical attitude to performance and note-taking. Ideally, A Level students will also take part in whole school productions and may well have wider theatrical interests beyond school.

Drama remains a rewarding, rigorous A Level and was recently regarded as the qualification of choice by a number of key business leaders in a poll, reflecting the importance we place on effective communication and analytical methodology.

**CONTACT: Ms J. Finnegan -
j.finnegan@merchanttaylor.com**

Economics

Specification - OCR (Reformed)



Economics attempts to answer the questions of what, how and for whom to produce. These questions can be dealt with in a variety of ways and the government can play a dominant, an enabling or a relatively weak role in the process. Economics is a hugely popular A Level option at the school, and this reflects the curiosity of our students in the workings of the local and national economy.

With very experienced examiners delivering the course, an insight into mark scheme requirements is a given, and a number of our students are minded to pursue Economics and business-based courses at university as a consequence of exposure to the A Level course.

The study of Economics should enable students to understand better the current economic issues that affect their lives. The subject matter ranges from the environment to the labour market, from unemployment to multinational companies, from inflation to the exchange rate. These issues are examined primarily in terms of the UK economy, but also encompass the UK's rights and responsibilities as a member of both the EU and the global economy.

Each summer a prize essay competition is held for the Lower Sixth, with the winning entries funded by sponsorship from INVESTEC. Indeed, the department's links with local and national businesses have led to visits from keynote speakers from the world of finance and students have been able to take advantage of sitting for professional financial qualifications while enrolled on the A Level course.

The Department is housed in spacious classrooms adjacent to the main school building and a discursive approach to the subject is ensured by pegging class sizes at reasonable numbers.

CONTACT: Mr S Kay -
s.kay@merchanttaylor.com

English Literature

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



Classroom teaching by academic tutors is the bedrock of the Sixth Form experience in English Literature at Merchant Taylors'. Each term your tutors will lead you through a study of set texts for the examination, while in the second year of the full A Level course there is a modest course work component. You will benefit from the intensive individual attention of highly experienced teachers and from discussing your ideas with your peers in the classroom. The lessons are conducted in an academic style but with rapport and not without humour. An emphasis on the discursive is important, and care and attention will be given to developing students' prose style through regular essay practice.

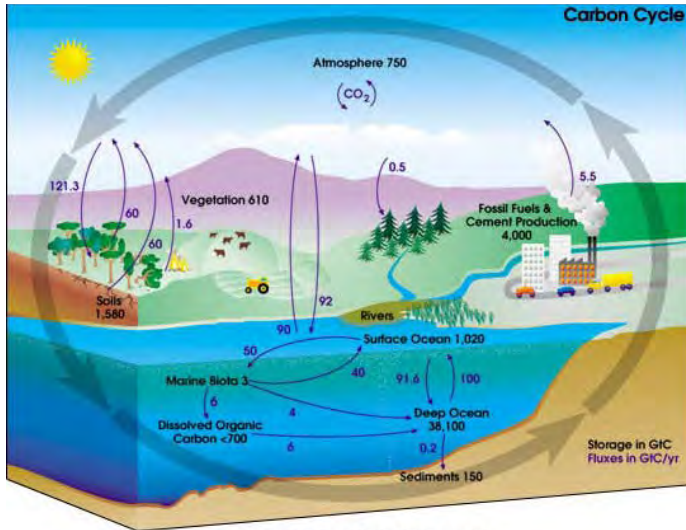
During most of your two years in the Sixth Form, you will be studying two or three texts per term, and you will have seven or eight lessons a week, supplemented by the optional Extra English class for those interested in studying canonical writing in greater depth. In this class, sixth formers are introduced to the wider field of Literature, studying texts that do not appear on the syllabus. The topic for last year, for example, was The Modern Novel, including F.S. Fitzgerald, E. M. Forster and D.H.Lawrence. We welcome those with open and lively minds to the subject, and are keen to promote extended reading for pleasure and analytical writing for publication.

In the first year of the course we currently focus on the genre of Comedy and the compulsory study of a Shakespeare play, in this case 'Twelfth Night', is taught alongside Levy's 'Small Island' and Goldsmith's 'She Stoops to Conquer'.

CONTACT: Mr R A Simpson -
r.simpson@merchanttaylors.com

Geography

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



Outline of subject:

Physical Geography 40%, Human Geography 40%, Coursework 20% (4000 words)

Some of the aims of the subject are:

- To acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of physical and human processes.
- To appreciate the dynamic nature of the subject; how places, environments and issues change.
- To understand how decisions are made about the use and management of resources and environments
- To clarify and develop your own values and attitudes in relation to geographical issues and questions.

Fieldwork plays a vital role in understanding the full nature of the subject and there are a number of days out in the local area. As part of the fieldwork programme there will be a compulsory residential trip during the first year of study. This will form an opportunity for boys to select a theme for their coursework.

The Geography department is an innovative and lively one, complete with four subject specialists and a commitment to enriching the course with lectures from leading academics and regular overseas trips – most recently ventures to Switzerland, Sicily and Iceland.

The Department takes great pride recent results and the number of Sixth Form Geographers who move on to study the subject or similar pathways at leading universities.

Geography works well with a variety of subjects. Global Economics and Systems has been introduced to the current specification linking well with Economics. Traditionally some students use Geography to combine with Mathematics and Science as it can be recognised as a Science, others follow a Humanities route as the human elements enable connections to be drawn between English Language, History and Politics.

Topics:

Physical: Water and Carbon Cycles, Coasts and Hazards

Human: Changing Places, Global Systems and Governance and Contemporary Urban Environments.

Coursework: Topic of choice linking to one of the named themes above.

CONTACT: ? -

Government and Politics

Specification - Edexcel



Government & Politics is an established subject in the School. Although taught under the aegis of the History department, the course need not merely be an accompaniment to Arts and Humanities subjects – it is highly recommended to those who have a lively and questioning mind and a healthy scepticism about the institutions that govern us. With discussion and debate at the heart of teaching and a willingness to explore beyond the specification a must, the course has a contemporary feel and is well regarded by universities as it tests a range of transferable skills, from lucidity of prose style to the ability to evaluate and interpret sources objectively.

A range of topics is covered which span domestic British politics to the complexities of the American constitution. The new specification also requires students to develop an understanding of political ideologies such as liberalism and feminism. Opportunities for extended, analytical writing abound and students should finish the course with a sophisticated understanding of the power structures which influence our daily lives.

CONTACT: Mr J Heap -
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History

Specification - Edexcel (Reformed)



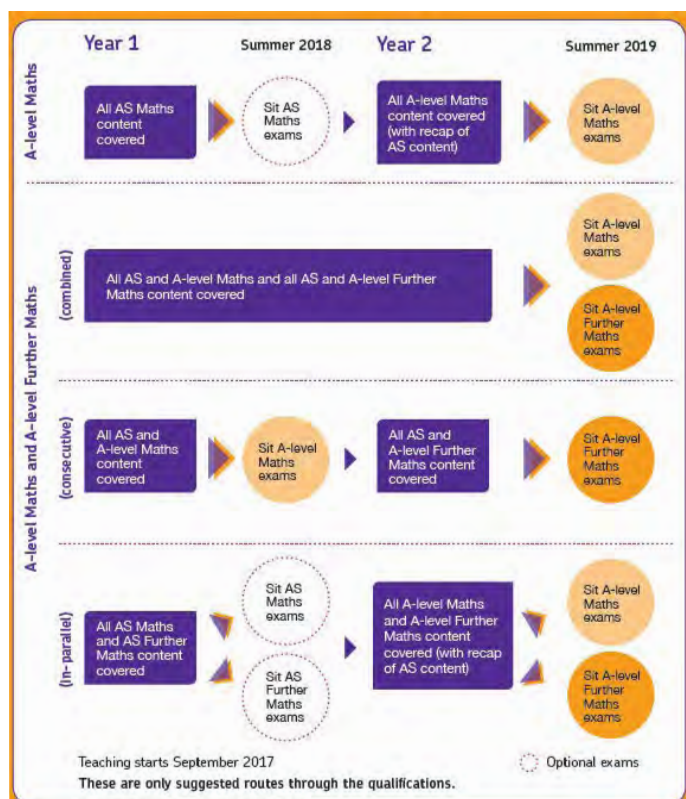
History is a thriving A Level subject at Merchant Taylors' and in recent years the number of students moving from the A Level course to study History at university, including at Oxbridge colleges, has been the envy of many other departments. Two factors behind the success of the A Level course are the passion and enthusiasm that the five members of the department share for their subject and the pathways pursued that allow areas of subject specialism to be developed. The department's aim is that all boys finishing the Sixth Form have studied a variety of historical periods and a variety of 'types' of history, whether it be social, political, economic or military.

The department is very proud of its commitment to extracurricular enrichment – sixth formers will lead the History Society and an array of visiting academics has provided a rich and varied diet. Additionally, trips are regularly made to conferences and promising historians are encouraged to enter and are tutored for prize essay competitions, often run through Oxbridge colleges, and Extended Projects, while residential History courses have been attended by all of our most successful A Level historians.

CONTACT: Mr J Heap -
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Mathematics and Further Mathematics A Level

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



AS and A-Level Maths content is 100% prescribed, containing both pure and applied maths.

The applied content for AS and A Level Maths is drawn from statistics and mechanics. There is no decision maths included. A Level Further Maths content contains a proportion of optional content, defined by exam boards.

Exams will be linear, not modular – this means that all exams must be taken at the end of the course, in the summer exam series.

AS will be decoupled from A Level – AS results will no longer count towards the final A Level grades. Overarching themes of mathematical argument, language and proof, problem solving and mathematical modelling underpin all parts of the qualifications.

The use of technology in the classroom is encouraged, so a large data set will be provided for students to analyse as part of the AS and A Level Maths specifications. Some exam questions will be based on this data set so students need to be familiar with it.

CONTACT: Mrs E C Peacock -
c.peacock@merchanttaylors.com

Modern Foreign Languages

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



The School offers French, Spanish and German at A Level. Housed in a suite of four self-contained classrooms, the department has five subject specialists and students will enjoy small class sizes, a discursive approach to teaching, and the support of native French and Spanish assistants as well as additional speaking classes.

With much being made of the difficulties boys have with Modern Foreign Languages, our burgeoning numbers of linguists at A Level reflects the degree to which we are able to buck the trend and to offer boys a rigorous and demanding course, which is well respected by universities and opens up outstanding career prospects.

Trips abroad remain vital to the study of Modern Foreign Languages at A Level. Held in the heart of Paris, the Your Future in Europe Conference is one that our students regularly attend. It features a range of speakers from leading politicians to business leaders. The conference is a cross curricular event, covering History, Politics, Economics, Law and Languages.

Focus on French is the part of the conference where our students have the opportunity to hear native speakers from top international companies and organisations cover key curriculum topics to develop core language skills.

With a view to second year study, students have the chance to visit Normandy, which is the region they may study as the cultural topic in the Upper Sixth. The Arromanches Invasion museum, Bayeux, Honfleur and the Caen Memorial are among the highlights of this trip, which gives an insight into the history, culture and day-to-day life of this unique region.

The School additionally helps students to set up work experience placements which enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of the language and culture of Spain and France. These placements assist students to master their chosen language or languages and offer a valuable opportunity for Merchants' boys to immerse themselves in the culture of the country.

CONTACT: Mr R Simpson -
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Music

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



The new AQA specification for A-level Music builds on the previous version, but changes the balance and emphasis of the various components slightly, as well as adding more set works.

There are three components:
Appraising Music (40%); Performance (35%); Composing (25%)

Appraising Music: There are seven areas of study:
Western Classical Tradition, 1650 - 1910 (compulsory)
Pop Music
Music for Media
Music for Theatre
Jazz
Contemporary traditional music
Art Music since 1910

Within each area there are specified works. For example the Western Classical Tradition focusses on the Baroque Concerto, Mozart Operas and Romantic Piano Music. Within each of the other areas, there are named composers/artists; for example, Stevie Wonder, Muse, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Louis Armstrong and Shostakovich to name but a few.

Candidates will need to listen to and appraise extracts from the set works, and show their knowledge and understanding of the context and methods of composition. They will also listen to unfamiliar music within each of their chosen areas, and need to identify musical elements and features.

Performance
A performance of at least ten minutes is required. It may be a solo recital, or playing within an ensemble. The standard of performance required is at least grade five, though success at higher grades is desirable. The performances are recorded and marked externally according to a grid which considers the level of difficulty, technical control, expressive qualities, and the overall quality of the performance.

There is also an option to create a performance with music technology using MIDI sequenced material and close-mic or DI audio tracks.

Composition
Two compositions are required.
One is composing to a brief set by AQA; there will be a number of options with different stimuli, such as a poem or other text, a picture or film clip, a notated beginning (e.g. - a chorale melody). The other composition will be a free composition, where the candidate is free to explore any genre and style they wish. Both compositions must be notated in an appropriate form (e.g. stave notation, graphic score, lead sheet, etc), and they must be performed and recorded.

GCSE Music is a good preparation for A Level, as it uses the same basic structure, but it is not a prerequisite. A good degree of performing experience, however, IS required.

**CONTACT: Mr D Holroyd -
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Physics

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



The Department of Physics routinely recruits over thirty students into the Lower Sixth, the vast majority of whom continue with the subject into the Upper Sixth. The programme of study allows students to develop a valuable and broad conceptual view of the subject, and provides the tools to be able to explain the physical basis for many phenomena seen in nature. The material touches on contemporary issues, such as the philosophical necessity of quantum theory and the principles of construction and operation of a nuclear power station. A strength of the course is its pertinence to small and large scale engineering, from scanning tunnelling microscopy and interferometry, through the analysis of electrical circuits and projectile motion, to calculating the orbital requirements of communications satellites.

In addition to the material specified by the examination board, many of our students take up extra-curricular activities such as summer schools in physics or engineering, national physics competitions and research projects with local companies and universities. This provides the opportunity to develop greater experience, more depth of knowledge in particular areas of the subject and certainly helps students to make informed and successful university applications.

A substantial number of our students go on to pursue Physics and Engineering at a higher level, but a good proportion of our students continue their educational career in subjects as diverse as Medicine, Law, Economics, Politics and Philosophy. Substantive content aside, the thorough analytical approach required for problem-solving in Physics makes the subject a respected A level for university entrance and therefore it is likely that at least an A grade at GCSE would be required for a student to flourish on the A level course.

Physics finds a natural partner in Mathematics and for any student considering a higher education in Physics or Engineering this combination is essential. However, the A level Physics course has a conceptual basis and though we recommend a good grade in GCSE Mathematics as a prerequisite, many of our students have achieved the highest grades in the absence of Mathematics as a second A Level.

CONTACT: Mr M Toney -
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Philosophy

Specification - AQA (Reformed)



Philosophy A level consists of two papers each covering two topics. Together they provide an introduction to several broad philosophical themes. Those themes are:

- Epistemology – the study of knowledge
- Religious Philosophy – the nature and existence of God
- Ethics – how and from where we derive our system of morals
- Metaphysics – the philosophy of mind and nature of reality

If you are still wondering what philosophy is, don't stop reading yet. Philosophy seeks to answer questions about ideas and the world that we normally take for granted. One philosopher, Stephen Pyke, describes philosophy as 'thinking in slow motion'.

In other words a philosopher changes the focus of their enquiry to cover not just science or history or maths, but the underlying assumptions that allow us to study those subjects at all.

Questions about the nature of reality, how we acquire knowledge and whether there is any purpose to existence are all philosophical questions. In fact if you keep asking 'why' about any question, scientific, linguistic, historical or mathematical you will always eventually end up with a philosophical question rather than the one you started with. Philosophy underpins everything.

If you are thinking of studying Philosophy be ready for lots of discussion and 'arguing', reading and essay writing. The ability to express ideas and opinions both verbally and on paper (something that subjects like History and English prepare you for) is an advantage. There are lots of new concepts to challenge you and you will gain invaluable skills in reasoning and logic.

CONTACT: Mr R Fawcett -
r.fawcett@merchanttaylor.com

Physical Education

Specification - OCR



Assessment overview

Exam 1 (2 hours)

Physiological factors affecting performance - 30%

Exam 2 (1 hour)

Psychological factors affecting performance - 20%

Exam 3 (1 hour)

Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport - 20%

Practical performance (1 sport) 30%

This course will be useful for students with a genuine interest in Sport who wish to study the theory behind the practical side of PE. It is particularly useful for those who are thinking of a career in PE teaching, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. You will study anatomical, physiological and psychological theories and apply them to sporting activity. You will look at what contributes to an active and healthy lifestyle, and develop an insight into movement, behaviour and performance in relation to sport.

With 30% of the course being based on your own practical ability it is important you are actively involved in a sport of your choice.

**CONTACT: Mr G Stiff -
g.stiff@merchanttaylor.com**

School Theatre



There is, as befits the School's independent status, a thriving extra-curricular scene in the Sixth Form and the quality of the music and drama on display is enviable. The annual Joint Schools Production is always ambitious and with high quality production and performance values offers opportunities for Sixth Formers both on stage and behind the scenes.

In 2010 Jesus Christ Superstar blended top quality acting and musicianship; in 2011 a more reflective mood was established with an unexpurgated staging of 'Hamlet', arguably Shakespeare's most demanding work. With a riotous and uncompromising production of 'Les Miserables' performed in November 2012, Dr Gill, Director of Drama, and Mr Holroyd, Director of Music, have an established track record, and one that has led a significant number of Sixth Formers to become established professional actors. Opportunities to co-direct Junior Drama are also open to Sixth Formers and 'Macbeth' was produced for March 2014, with 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dream Coat' following in November 2015. 'Our Day Out' was performed in March 2016 and 'Grease' was performed in November 2016. At present rehearsals are underway for 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' to be staged in November 2017.

The Arts at Merchant Taylors' are well buttressed by musical opportunities too. For the musically adventurous there are a range of styles and genres available, and those with an active interest in contemporary as well as classical music are well catered for. With the Concert Band and Swing Band complemented by an a cappella group and a strings section, those with some ability on any instrument, including the voice, are encouraged to participate. Regular concerts and performances across the local area, including at the Philharmonic Hall, are held and there are practice rooms in the Music Department. We have a number of highly skilled peripatetic music teachers and instrumental music lessons are a staple part of the weekly diet of many Sixth Formers. There is also a flourishing Chamber Music scene with several groups giving recitals at venues in the area.

**CONTACT: Dr J Gill -
j.gill@merchanttaylor.com**

The School Library



Sixth formers can use the library during their study lessons or free time, from 8.30am until 5.15pm (4.45pm on Fridays).

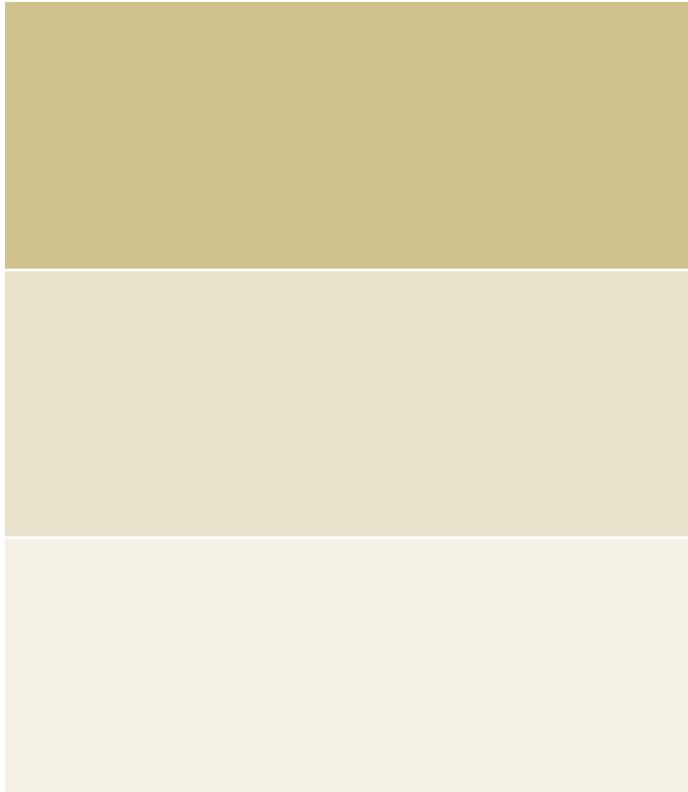
The library contains more than 12,000 books, including fiction and reference material, six computers, a combined printer, photocopier and scanner, five daily newspapers, and more than thirty magazines. The stock is updated regularly.

There are also subscriptions to online databases of periodical articles, which are particularly useful for EPOs and coursework. The library not only supports subjects on the curriculum but also offers a wide range of extension reading for pupils applying to Oxbridge, medicine and law. The sixth form reading group encourages pupils to read outside the curriculum, and to discuss books in a half termly meeting.

Pupils interested in literature and creative writing can attend the regular author visits, and have the opportunity to talk to published writers about their work.

The library promotes the development of independent learning, which is essential for higher education.

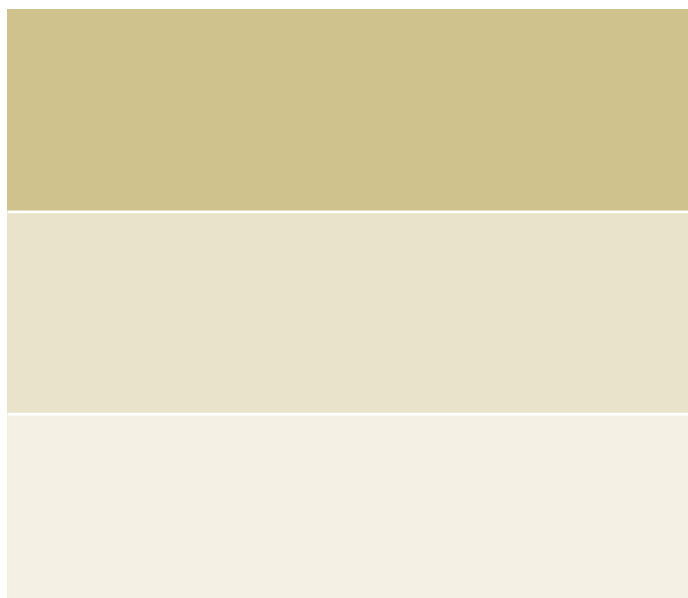
CONTACT: Mrs E Rea - e.rea@merchanttaylor.com



Peer Support

A significant number of Sixth Formers become Peer Supporters, assisting with the transition of younger members of the school community from the primary to secondary curriculum. As well as demonstrating an altruistic nature, Peer Supporters improve their own personal skills and come to be seen as role models within the Merchants' Community.

**CONTACT: Mr A Scott -
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Merchants' in the Community



School Council: Sixth Form Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the School Council. Many Senior Students have been involved from an early age and form part of the Executive Committee when they reach the Sixth Form. Council members regularly meet with the Headmaster to discuss issues arising from the monthly School Council meetings and are encouraged to present their ideas at the regular full school assemblies. As an important element of our outreach programme, Sixth Form Councillors keep in contact with recipients of financial support which has been raised by School Council initiatives around school. New members of the Sixth Form are always warmly invited to join and share their ideas and experiences from their previous schools.

Youth Club: The Youth Club is an initiative run by Sixth Form volunteers to enable boys and girls from Years 7 and 8 to meet on a regular basis. It takes place once a month and provides boys and girls with the opportunity to mix in a social setting and enjoy one another's company in a safe and happy environment. The Sixth Form volunteers run all of the activities that take place, ranging from face painting and football to the tuck shop. Many of our Sixth Form volunteers have gone onto become Youth Leaders and Senior Youth Leaders as a consequence of their support at school. The Sixth Form boys and girls work collaboratively to encourage fun, friendship and confidence amongst younger pupils and between each other.

Volunteering: Sixth Form students are encouraged to volunteer through a variety of different routes; the Voluntary Service Unit (VSU), the Community Enrichment Project and The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The VSU primarily focuses on working in the local area and beyond, outside of the normal hours of school. Boys and girls are encouraged to volunteer with local charitable organisations in order to accrue over 100 hours of commitment. They will then be awarded the prestigious VSU tie.

The Community Enrichment Project encompasses volunteering within the normal hours of the school day. During free periods, or Wednesday afternoons, Sixth Form boys and girls are placed in a variety of settings ranging from primary schools to charity shops. The hours accrued can go towards the VSU tie and the volunteering element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

**CONTACT: Mrs A C Byrne -
c.byrne@merchanttaylors.com**

Sport



The School invests a good deal of resources in encouraging students to enjoy physical activity, both now and in the future. In addition to rugby and cricket, coached and played to a very high level, students also enjoy the use of a modern well equipped fitness suite and state-of-the-art dance studio. After a brief training session students are welcome to use the sports centre facilities as often as they like.

Games is a timetabled activity on Wednesday afternoons, though a few students elect voluntary service. Field sports include rugby, cricket, hockey and football. The sports centre offers badminton, basketball, table tennis, trampoline, indoor cricket, and the fitness suite. Rowing, triathlon and orienteering are further opportunities.

The Centre was officially opened in 2011 by Ben Kay, former England Rugby International. It serves the needs of the four Merchants' Schools and is at the heart of sporting life in the Senior School.

Besides the on-site rugby and cricket pitches we have additional pitches for rugby, cricket and hockey on the Hall Road site, located about a mile from the School.

CONTACT:

Mr I Mckie (Rugby) -
i.mckie@merchanttaylor.com

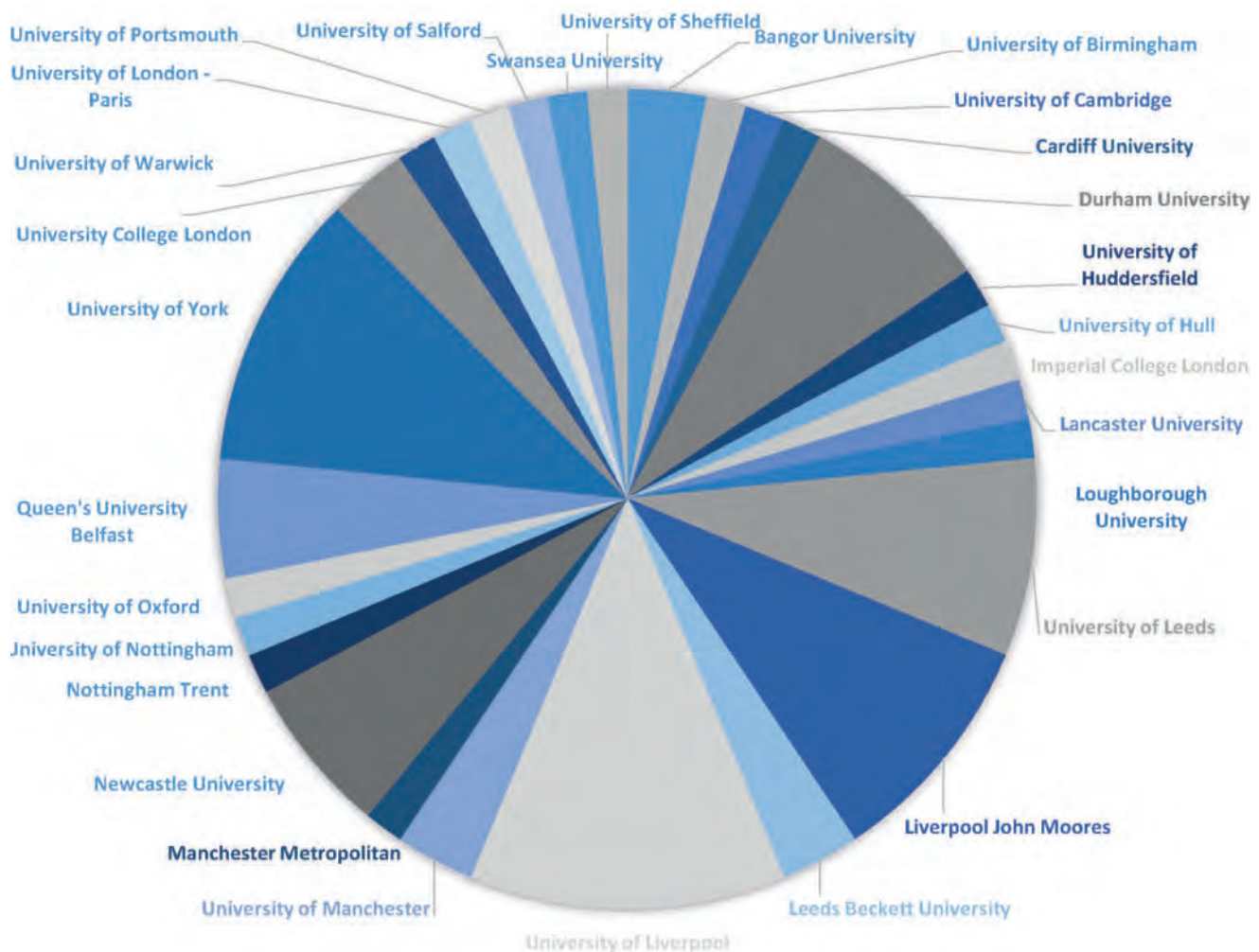
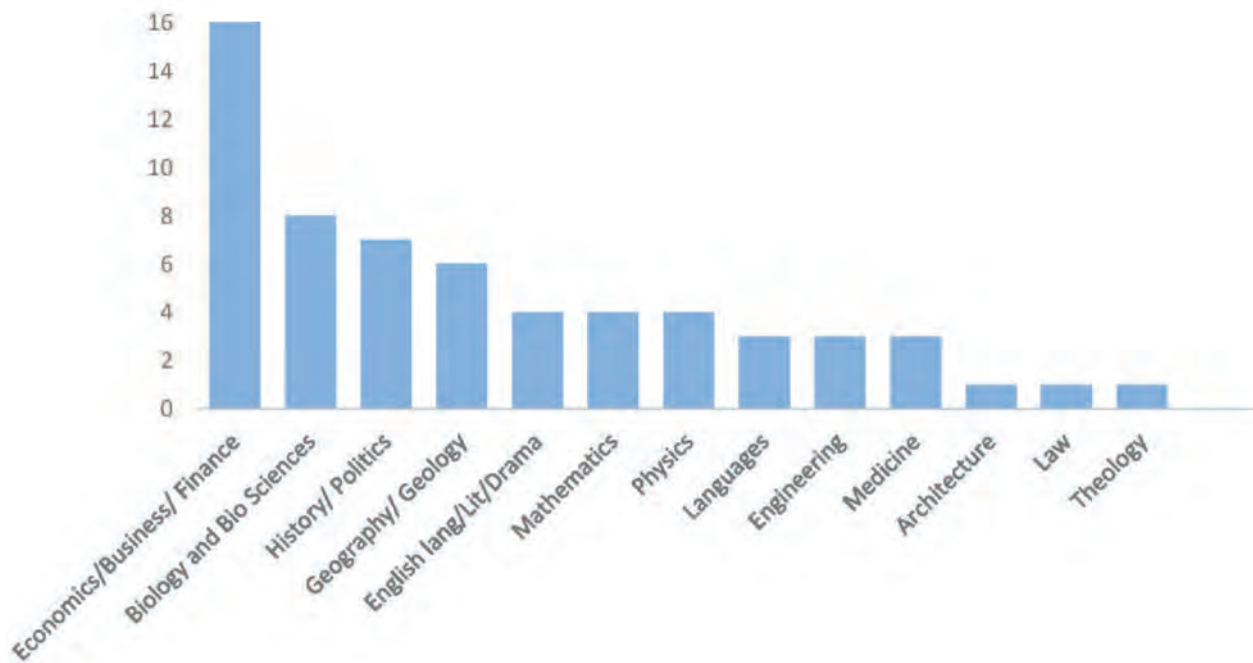
Mr S Cooke (Hockey) -
s.cooke@merchanttaylor.com

Mr S Sutcliffe (Cricket) -
s.sutcliffe@merchanttaylor.com

IAN ROBINSON
SPORTS CENTRE
at Merchant Taylors'



2016/2017 Merchant Taylors' Boys' School – Leavers Subjects and Destinations



Recent quotes from boys that have joined us in Sixth Form from other schools...

// ...despite entering Merchant Taylors' Boys' School as a complete outsider I have not only been accepted by my peers but by the staff as well...


...I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given by Merchant Taylors' thus far, not only for myself but for others in my position. I hope others now realise that you do not need to be 'Merchants' through and through' in order to succeed here; and that those from all walks of life are able to integrate and flourish.

...I feel that in relatively recently joining the school I have perhaps the greatest position in being able to give fresh perspectives and personal experience as to how individuals can bring themselves to be as comfortable in the school environment as I have grown to be.

...I have thoroughly enjoyed by first year at Merchant Taylors'; a school in which I feel comfortable. //

The Merchant Taylors' Schools
Liverpool Road, Crosby,
Liverpool L23 0QP.

For more information contact a
member of the Admissions Team
on 0151 949 9366

 @MerchantsCrosby
 /merchanttaylorscrosby
 Merchant Taylors' Crosby Alumni



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years