

Senior Girls

Merchant Taylors' Schools
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Headmistress: **Mrs LA Robinson MEd BA(Hons) NPQH**
Headmistress's: PA: **Mrs J Baccino**



For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

February 2018

Dear parents, alumni and friends of the school

We are taking this opportunity to update you on the changes within education and the reporting of academic success. This year, the majority of changes to the system of qualifications will be consolidated. At GCSE, alphabetic grades are replaced with numbers, changing from grades A* to G, to the numbers 9 down to 1, with the C grade pass at GCSE, being equivalent to Level 4. At A level, all subjects will now follow the traditional two year, terminal examination route, where AS exams do not count towards the final grade.

Following the recent publication of the state school league tables, we thought it appropriate and timely to bring you up to date with a full picture of examination results for 2017. The national statistics which were published earlier this month are based on 'Attainment 8' measures. Attainment 8 scores schools on how well pupils have performed in up to 8 qualifications, which include English, mathematics, 3 English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages, and 3 other additional approved qualifications. Both the Girls' and Boys' School do not restrict their students' GCSE choices using the E-Bacc system, and by allowing students to take subjects such as Religious Studies, Latin or Classics, or by choosing a differing awarding body, such as WJEC, we are therefore excluded from the GCSE league tables. However, at GCSE, at MTBS, the proportion of boys achieving 5 or more GCSEs, at grades A* to C was 91% and MTGS scored 97.8% under the same criteria. These results are extremely favourable in comparison to all other schools in the area.

With regard to recent A level league tables, whilst points per pupil can be of value, if a school allows pupils to take more subjects and perhaps those of a 'less rigorous' nature, the tables can be misleading. The percentage of pupils achieving AAB with two facilitating subjects is a more robust measure and certainly of value when applying for the more prestigious universities, which includes the Russell Group.

School	Average grade	Percentage achieving AAB with at least 2 facilitating subjects
MTBS	B	25.7%
MTGS	B	21.7%
Bluecoat	B+	46%
St Mary's	B-	15.8%
Sacred Heart	D+	11.1%
Range	C+	18.6%
Liverpool College	C+	25.2%

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King George V College	C-	2.4%
Winstanley	B-	13.4%
Runshaw	B-	15%
Scarsbrick	C	0.0%

Despite the changes, our Schools will continue to offer the more traditional, academic subjects which are required by the top universities; whilst the marketization of the universities will create more of a 'buyers' market' for students, the top selecting universities will remain competitive and will require the highest grades for a successful application. For the 2018 intake, overall, with fewer teenagers in the 16-19 cohort and fewer of those teenagers applying to university, many of the Higher Education Institutes are following an 'offer high, accept low' philosophy or even tempting students with unconditional offers.

We believe that at Merchant Taylors' Schools we provide, both a strong academic environment, where the pupils become 'active learners' and understand the process of success, as well as a wide variety of opportunities for personal development. The extra-curricular activities, sport, drama and music, competitions and key note lectures, CCF and DoE, leadership opportunities and community involvement, continue to ensure that our young people develop in a healthy, enjoyable and supportive community. We know that our parents make significant sacrifices to fund their sons and daughters at the school, which is why we are determined to ensure our fees are some of the most competitive in the country, so that the schools are producing excellent value for money.

We will continue to pursue and encourage excellence, inside and outside the classroom, whilst promoting the skills and attributes that employers desire: compassion, empathy, confidence and resilience, and to prepare our students for leadership and life. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

L A Robinson

D Williams