

Senior Girls

Merchant Taylors' Schools
Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5SP
Telephone: 0151 924 3140
Email j.baccino@merchanttaylorsschools.com www.merchanttaylorsschools.com
Headmistress: **Mrs LA Robinson MEd BA(Hons) NPQH**
Headmistress's: PA: **Mrs J Baccino**



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

March 2018

Dear Parents

I am writing my last letter to you during the final week of the Spring Term when we have celebrated our Upper Sixth students' participation in the Gifted and Talented Programme for 2017-18 with the Harrison Dinner, and the Spring Concert, in which many students and staff paid me a great compliment and for which I was very humbled. The Music Competition was, as always, inspirational, and I would like to congratulate Lydia Baldwin and Rachel Burnett, as the (respective) Middle School and Senior School Musicians of the year. Earlier in the term, the Senior Chamber Choir were lauded for their performance at the Merchant Taylors' Company Hall annual dinner for the Lord Mayor of the City, and I was honoured to be included in the invitations. The Joint Schools' Production of 'To Kill a Mocking Bird' was absolutely stunning and I hope many of you took the opportunity to see some of our talented young actors and actresses. I would like to congratulate Eleanor Worthington-Cox on her ever-growing standing in the wider dramatic world and her success as Cait in Sky's production of Britannia. There is so much talent in the school it is quite awe-inspiring and so many other fantastic successes, I cannot mention all of them in a single letter, but I hope that you feel we keep you up-to-date with the Headlines e-bulletin and you like the new look.

As I said in Prize Giving in November, many of these activities and accolades would not take place without the dedication, passion and expertise of the staff, and on your behalf I would like to thank each and every one of them.

The calendar is in place for the Summer Term and it will be sent to all parents at the beginning of term, which is 12th April 2018. May I remind you that internal examinations begin for Y10 on Friday 13th April, whilst the Lower Sixth start on Monday 21st May. The internal examinations for Years 7 to 9 are just before and just after the half-term break (ie beginning on Wednesday 23rd May). The new Head, Mrs Tao, starts her term of office on 1st April and I am sure you will, with me, wish her well and warmly welcome her.

The last few weeks have been very emotional, as I have been shared the celebrations of my 12 years in the School. My interview for the School Magazine, Calliope, asked me to leave a few words of wisdom for the girls, but I would also like to leave the poem I adapted and read out to the School earlier this week *Don't grow a wishbone, where your backbone should be!*

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I have some wonderful memories of the School: the many concerts and music competitions; joint productions and the Drama Festival; visits to Sierra Leone, events like the 100 years CCF celebrations and the Merchant Taylors' Company dinners; Old Girls' Association lunches as well as Old Boys' dinners; Christmas shows and Nativity Plays; Duke of Edinburgh walks; sports' days and swimming galas; as well as the weekly assemblies, School lunches and regular staff meetings. All of these form the backbone of the structure of the school, but it is the girls and their achievements I will remember with pleasure and pride. I will never forget the group of Upper Sixth students who sang their version of 'Reach for the Stars' to celebrate our 'Reaching for Success' statue in their tribute to their time on the School.

I would like to thank everyone for their gifts, good wishes and cards. I am going onto pastures new: I am training to be a Lead Inspector for the Independent Sector as well as taking a role as a Project Manager to promote the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals in schools for World Merit. I am looking forward to coming back to the 2020 celebrations as well as Prize Giving.

I will miss working with my colleagues and the girls; their vibrancy, verve and sheer energy uplifted me every single day. May I wish you and your families all the very best for the future and the success of all our students.

Many kind regards



Louise Robinson

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FOR MTGS *“Never grow a wishbone, girl, where your backbone ought to be.”*

based on a poem by Sarah **McMane** who quotes Clementine Paddleford

Never play the princess when you can be the queen:
rule the kingdom, swing a sword, and wear a crown of gold.
Stand tall and proud, whatever you are doing.
Only dance in shoes that fit or be a barefoot Amazon instead.
Life is too short to hurt your feet.
Never wear pink when you can strut in crimson red,
sweat in heather grey or shimmer in blue.
Colours are for everyone, so don't be a pale primrose to be blindly pushed
aside.
Chase green dragons and one-eyed zombies, fierce and fiery toothy monsters,
not only butterflies; for you can tame the most brutish beasts
with your wily wits and charm,
and lizard scales feel just as smooth as insect wings, if stroked the right
way.
Tramp muddy prints through the house in a purple tutu and cowboy boots.
Have a tea party in your overalls. Build a fort of branches, a zoo of Lego,
a rocketship of duvets and kitchen chairs, first stop the moon, or Mars.
Dream of dinosaurs and baby dolls, bold brontosaurus and bookish Belle,
not Barbie on the catwalk or Disney damsels in distress;
you are much too strong to play the simpering waif.
Put on a hat, skip around the room, paint your toenails, climb a tree.

Learn to speak with both your mind and heart.
For the ground beneath will hold you dear, and know that you are free.
And never grow a wishbone, girl, where your backbone ought to be.