

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 CA Tao MSc BSc(Hons) Grad.IPD**
Headmistress's: PA: **Mrs J Baccino**



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

Dear Parents

I hope you have enjoyed the holiday period with your daughter(s) and managed to delight in some of the wonderful weather.

Over half-term, I read *Five Minds for the Future* – a book by Howard Gardner, the Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at Harvard University. I believe that the ideas in the book will assist in underpinning what I am trying to achieve for pupils at MTGS. They also appear to be most pertinent at a time when our girls are involved in both internal and external examinations, with some preparing to leave MTGS to begin the next stage of their lives. Gardner's "Minds" are described as follows:

- The **synthesising** mind takes information from disparate sources, understands and evaluates that information objectively, and puts it together in ways that make sense to the synthesizer and to others
- The **creating** mind breaks new ground. It puts forward new ideas, poses unfamiliar questions, develops fresh ways of thinking and often arrives at unexpected answers
- The **disciplined** mind has mastered at least one way of thinking – a distinctive mode of cognition that characterises a specific scholarly discipline, a craft or a profession
- The **ethical** mind ponders the nature of one's work and the needs and wishes of the society in which we live
- The **respectful** mind pays heed to and welcomes differences among individuals and groups, tries to understand those "others", and seeks to work effectively with them.

It is for the development of all these attributes that girls attend MTGS and I hope to continue to find ways of pushing forward the boundaries of education for the future success and opportunities for all your daughters. To this extent, I would like to invite you to complete the parental survey using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/92SZ7YN>

I will be analysing your feedback over the coming months and then intend to invite some of you to participate on a number of Parents' Forums in the Autumn Term. In the first instance, I would like to thank all of you who attended the 'Meet the Head' Breakfasts which I hosted last half-term. I very much enjoyed meeting parents from across the year groups and I hope to welcome many of you to all the events scheduled for this half-term. There has been much research citing the benefits of parental engagement with the school attended by their children. Your daughters do really enjoy seeing you attend their performances and coming to events they are participating in at school. It is also important to them that you ask them how their day has gone – in spite of the fact that they

The Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby; a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England: Company Number 6654276
Registered Office: 186 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 0QP
Registered Charity Number: 1125485

often have no intention of answering the question! Just by asking it and seeing them in the myriad of events at school shows your daughter that you care and your engagement with School is also a vital part of their learning.

I would like to thank you for entrusting your daughter to us and for working with us for her benefit. In conclusion, may I finish with an inspirational quotation from the book *Letters of Note which* details the lives of the Sullivan brothers who were killed in action together during World War Two: *"We will make a team together that cannot be beat."*

Warmest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Claire Tao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Claire Tao
Headmistress