



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

June 2018

To Parents of Boys in Year 11

Now that your sons have completed their GCSE examinations and the academic year draws to a close, it is an appropriate time to commend Year 11 boys for the hard work, tenacity and resolve demonstrated throughout a gruelling external examination period. To their credit, boys showed tremendous dedication during attendance at additional revision sessions and I would like to thank members of the teaching staff for doing so much to supplement classroom teaching during and prior to the examination season. I wish the boys all good fortune for Results Day on August 23rd.

It is now time for boys to turn their attention to the exciting period of Sixth Form life and A Level study. I would like to draw your attention to arrangements in preparation for their Sixth Form career. **There will be a full induction morning for all Lower Sixth boys on Wednesday 5th September and further details will be made available in due course. Boys are expected to wear smart business dress on this morning.**

GCSE results will be published on Thursday 23rd August and results slips will be available in the Sixth Form Centre from 8.30am. The vast majority of our students will find their results more than satisfactory and the academic transition to Sixth Form study will be relatively smooth. However, there may be some students who are considering changing their A Level choices, and Mr R Simpson, as Deputy Head Academic, Mr G Bonfante, Head of Sixth Form and Mr R Yates, Head of Middle School will be on hand to advise, as will Mr Wickes, Headmaster, about this, or indeed any other matter. There will then be an opportunity to reflect and discuss potential option choices with parents, before the formal option changes take place on **Thursday 6th September between 9am and 11am**. Boys will be off timetable for the morning and will be able to seek further guidance from Heads of Department who will be on hand. Any discussion regarding reviews of marking cannot take place until the new term is underway on September 5th. Please consult the School's website for full details and information concerning the Results Day procedure and the timings for any follow-up required.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that, for the first time, grades for most subjects will take the form of numbers, in descending order of merit from 9-1; all other subjects will retain alphabetical grading for this examination series.

Sixth Form dress, attendance and punctuality: it has been the convention and expectation of the School for some years now that Sixth Form students should have an appearance that reflects their growing maturity and attitude to Sixth Form study. To that end, a dark or grey suit is required, in addition to a light coloured shirt and appropriate tie; pullovers should be sober with a v-neck. Boys shall also present a professional and adult image with a smart haircut (above the collar) and shall be cleanly shaven. Attendance at School is required for each day of the academic year unless arrangements have been made with the Head of Sixth Form. Punctuality is an important part of professional conduct and all Sixth Form students are expected to register with their Form Tutor at **8.40am** and **1.55pm** daily and regardless of whether or not boys have lessons periods 1 or 6. Contact with Form Tutors allows the School to provide a high level of pastoral guidance, and our experience shows that students with poor attendance and punctuality do not fulfil their academic potential; if attendance falls below 90%, then there is very clear evidence that grades decline.

The School encourages students to extend their academic interests. This may involve lectures at local universities, summer schools, competitions, projects, extensive reading and, in particular, Extended Projects in the transitional period from Lower Sixth to Upper Sixth. Please ask for advice and we will be happy to assist – we have discovered that such activities have a significant impact on the development of students and their preparation for university study.

After the hard work of preparing for the public exams I hope that boys and their families enjoy a relaxing summer break, returning refreshed to a new term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the closing "Yours sincerely,".

D Williams
A/Headmaster