



## **Merchant Taylors' Senior Boys' School Parents' Association Focus Group**

### **MINUTES TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2018**

Staff Present      Headmaster (Chair) DW

**1. Apologies**

The Director of Finance and Operations, Mrs Lynn Hill, was not able to attend the meeting due to illness and sent her apologies.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes from the previous meeting, having been circulated and agreed, were signed off by the Chair. Thank you to all volunteers who helped serve refreshments at CCF Inspection Day.

**3. Adam Gladwin & Mrs Gladwin**

Adam Gladwin made a presentation at the beginning of the meeting asking for the Association for some funds for his sponsored bicycle ride from Lands' End to John o Groats. The Association agreed to offer him £150.00 and we would also put a collection tin in the Association tent at sports day and Adam would be there with his bike to publicise the ride, and see if he can collect more money that way.

**4. Chairman's Report (delivered by Mr Williams)**

As reported in the previous meeting, we are working towards more collaboration between the schools. There is sufficient commonality in the timetable from September 2018 to allow increased flexibility of options and teaching at Sixth Form Level between MTBS and MTGS.

The executive team have been working with Governors to look at some strategic developments for the Schools going forwards. Exec have had a strategy day today and on Thursday, we are working with a PR company to look at developing the MTS brand – what do we do, how do we do it, for whom are we doing it and what

value do we add by doing it? We hope to have a clearer understanding of our current and future market and how the schools will strengthen their position within that market.

The school is currently in the midst of external examinations, with Year 11 and 13 on exam leave. Internal exams for all year groups take place in the week and a half after the half term holiday.

In addition to this, we are looking at timetabling and academic developments for the coming academic year. We will strengthen Level 3 EPQs in the Sixth Form with a more structured timetabled provision of support and more boys undertaking this valuable qualification.

We are currently tendering for a new catering supplier. Initial meetings have been held along with visits to other schools to see the provision on offer in terms of food but also staff and infrastructure. Common provider across all the schools. In place for September. Final tender meetings tomorrow.

The big excitement at MTBS is the imminent arrival of David Wickes. He has visited the school twice within the last week and will be up for a few more days after half term. You will all get the chance to meet him in September, but he is going to be very good for the School. He is an experienced schoolmaster and deputy head in a number of good independent schools including Warwick, Abingdon and Dulwich College, where he worked with Mrs Tao.

Numbers into Year 7 are looking good at MTBS, reversing the slight decline which we saw last year. We currently have 78 signed up, with a few more to be tested over the coming days. We are holding a discovery day later in the term (15<sup>th</sup> June) to attract boys for September and possibly beyond.

Recruitment into the Sixth Form for next year is currently modest but we always pick up more candidates on GCSE results day. Some boys are leaving us at the end of year 11 but fewer than last year. Apprenticeships and Sixth Form colleges seem more popular amongst the year group this year and a couple are being tempted away by large scholarship offers at boarding schools.

We are targeting 2020 as the start of an ongoing fundraising campaign with a specific emphasis on bursaries and scholarships.

**Recent Successes – CCF Inspection Day**

Success at gold level in Biology and Chemistry Olympiads

Delighted to award three gold DoE's in assembly a few weeks ago as well as numerous silver and bronze certificates

Recently won the Ian Robinson Award from the Merseyside Association of Rugby Referees in recognition of the quality of our pitches and organization of home matches.

**5. Events for the Summer Term 2018:**

- Sports Day – **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018** – support from members of the PA would be very much appreciated in setting up, serving tea, scones, ice creams and sweets/tuck shop which Jo Hodgkinson advises she will bring on the day. **Could any volunteers please email Cathy Austin on [c.austin@merchanttaylors.com](mailto:c.austin@merchanttaylors.com) to confirm they can help anytime during the afternoon, from 1.30pm**

**6. Events for the Autumn Term 2018:**

- Merchant Taylors' Company Joint Schools Concert – **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm in the Birmingham Symphony Hall**
- Speech Day and Prizegiving – **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 (Speech Day Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December)** in the Philharmonic Hall.  
Guest speaker – Mr Mark Bereton.

**7. Any Other Business**

DW answered questions regarding the timings of Speech Day and the Speech Day holiday and confirmed this year, the Holiday is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, before Speech Day which is on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

DW also answered questions about catering and whether boys are forced to go and eat. I advised that the quality of the food has increased recently and there would be a new catering supplier in from September and if boys have been reluctant to eat in the dining room due to the quality of the food and there being nothing they like, then perhaps they should be encouraged to test what's on offer now. We don't keep a register of boys who have eaten but if parents have a concern they should report it to their form tutors.

- 8. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 in the Ian Robinson Sports Centre @ 7pm.**