

Senior Boys

Merchant Taylors' Schools
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Headmaster: David Wickes MA (Oxon)



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

September 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Welcome or welcome back to Merchant Taylors' Boys' School. I do hope that you were able to enjoy a lovely summer.

It has been wonderful to see the boys back at school this week, brimming with energy and enthusiasm. I spoke to a group of Year 7 boys (this week) and they had loved every minute of their time so far and were very excited about going on the Rock and River trip today. Equally as enthusiastic were some Lower Sixth boys who spoke with real passion about how they were enjoying concentrating on their 3 favourite subjects at A Level, as well as the opportunity to wear a suit to school.

All the boys I have spoken to have commented favourably on our new Dining Room and Kitchen. The whole space looks so much lighter and brighter and the refurbished counters make choosing food even easier. We were treated to an assembly by Graham Ogden, Executive Chef from Chartwells, on Thursday and he told us how he had gained inspiration from a recent trip to Norway. He explained to the boys how the Norsemen were able to sail considerable distances, arrive at their destination and still be in a position to fight a pitched battle. He introduced us to a number of nutritious and calorific foods and we are looking forward to sampling them later this term. The assembly was delivered, of course, in the newly decorated Williams Hall. Just like the Dining Room, the Hall has had a refurbishment this summer. It too looks so much lighter and brighter. We are grateful to the Old Boys' Association for a substantial donation to this project.

We have a number of new teaching staff joining us this term. Mr Jon Andrews has arrived as the new Deputy Head Academic and will be teaching Economics and Mathematics. Mr Andrews was most recently Director of Teaching and Learning at Oakham School and has previously worked at Millfield and St Paul's School, Barnes. Mr Jonathan Sellick joins the English Department as an experienced teacher who has taught for many years in Formby, where he was also Head of Sixth Form. We also welcome Mr Mark Jones in the Design and Technology Department. Another experienced teacher, Mr Jones has worked as an examiner for many years and is a highly qualified football referee. Mr Oliver Jacques is our fourth addition and arrives as a Biology teacher. He was a pupil at nearby RGS Lancaster before taking a degree in Zoology. Finally, Old Crosbeian Marie-Claire Gervasoni has joined the Music Department, now under the leadership of Mr Harrison. Ms Gervasoni will be teaching at both the Boys' and the Girls' Schools as well as taking a lead role in Choral Music.

We were pleased for many of our young men who achieved success in their public examination results this summer. At A Level, our A*-B and A*-C percentage increased and 80% of boys entered either their first choice university or their insurance offer. At GCSE the number of grades 9's increased, reflecting the ability of so many of these young men as well as the dedication and support of our hard-working teachers and parents.

The school term is underway and that brings with it all the busyness of life at Merchant Taylors': play rehearsals, music practices and sports fixtures are quickly upon us. It is clear to me that those boys who throw themselves into school life and all the opportunities present here are among the happiest. So, I would urge everyone to take advantage of the plethora of options that are available.

I look forward to seeing you at these and other events this term.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Wickes
Headmaster