

Senior Boys

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

18th October 2019



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

Dear All,

It has been another busy half term with the boys involving themselves in many activities both inside and outside of the classroom. There is a huge amount on offer here and so many of the boys avail themselves of these opportunities.

I have enjoyed watching a number of our sports teams perform with real distinction. A particular highlight was the victory of our U12 Cricket Team in the Lancashire Cup Final against old rivals Manchester Grammar School. They now go on to represent the county in the National Competition next season. The team were rightly lauded at a very enjoyable Cricket Awards Evening which also saw a number of Old Crosbeians inducted into the Cricket Hall of Fame. This strong tradition – excellence in sport and loyalty to the school – has struck me as a key aspect of what makes Merchant Taylors' a special place.

There has been sporting success on other fronts as well. The U13 Football team has reached Round 3 of the ISFA Cup where they will face St Bede's, Manchester, whilst the 1st XV Rugby team will face local rivals St Mary's College in the next round of their cup competition. It has been great to watch a couple of indoor hockey fixtures on Friday evenings in the Sports Centre, with Merchant Taylors' overcoming both Bolton Boys and Calday Grange. However, it has been equally enjoyable seeing the sheer number of boys out playing sport. Physical exercise has been shown to have many beneficial effects and it is pleasing to see so many involved in it here at Merchant Taylors'. We have also seen individuals achieve great personal success in a variety of sports from cycling to trampolining.

The Performing Arts have been busy too, rehearsing for a number of events later this term. We are once again looking forward to another joint production with the Girls' School. This year's offering is the musical 'Hairspray' and involves a large number of students. SaxPac are playing in The Royal Albert Hall on 12th November as part of the School Proms and the Christmas Concert will once more round off the term with a festive flavour. Again, individuals have continued to make their mark with students competing in, and winning, external competitions as well as appearing in professional productions on stage and screen.

Of course, the boys have also been working hard on their academic studies and I would like to take this opportunity to wish those boys well who are taking their University Aptitude Tests on 30th October. I have to say, I have particularly enjoyed reading through the entries of the winners and runners-up in

the English Short Story competition. It is hard to believe that these were written by boys in Years 7 to 9, such was their quality.

Open Morning was particularly busy this year with a large number of prospective families coming to visit us. As usual, the boys who acted as tour guides and as hosts were a real credit to the school. There have been many other things happening which space prevents me from mentioning, but I would not want to miss out the excellent volunteering work that goes on each week in the local community. On Wednesday afternoon especially, the boys go out to help in local primary schools, local care homes and local charity shops, reminding us that we are very much part of the community. As we move towards the 400th anniversary of our foundation, it is good to see that many of the values that were with us at the start still play an important role in the school today.

I wish you an enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wickes', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr D Wickes
Headmaster