



Dear Parents

## The Destination of Leavers 2017

September 2017

In a year which has seen significant change in the way in which specifications are taught and examinations assessed, we are reflecting on a very good set of results at both GCSE and A Level. At A Level, 65% of grades were at A\*-B, 41% were at A\* or A, and 14% (or 1 in 7 of all grades) were at A\*. Our GCSE results were also a cause for celebration, with more than half of all grades (54%) being at A\* or A.

On the reverse of this letter, you will find some graphical information about the course choices and destinations of last year's U6. Choosing a university and the course to follow are important decisions. There are many factors to consider, including the geographical location of the institution, its reputation and standing (measured by various means) and the financial implications of tuition fees, accommodation costs etc. These decisions will affect future career prospects as well as the more immediate factor in boys' minds – am I going to enjoy it?

For some, an undergraduate degree may not be the most appropriate choice. It is the pathway that most of our leavers choose to follow as they look to extend the intellectual challenge that they have become used to here into the subject area in which they are most interested. However, an apprenticeship or a route directly into employment will be better suited to many young people. At Merchant Taylors', we pride ourselves on the support that is given to our Sixth Form boys when considering their next steps. Three-quarters of our U6 last year found a place at their firm or insurance choice of university, reflecting the wise decisions they made and sound advice they received. However, we are always here on results day to provide personal support to boys who want to make a different choice. We offered advice about clearing and adjustment on results day and over the ensuing days. With our help, several boys found places to study their chosen course at other institutions and a small number made an application on the day to new courses as they had received better than expected results.

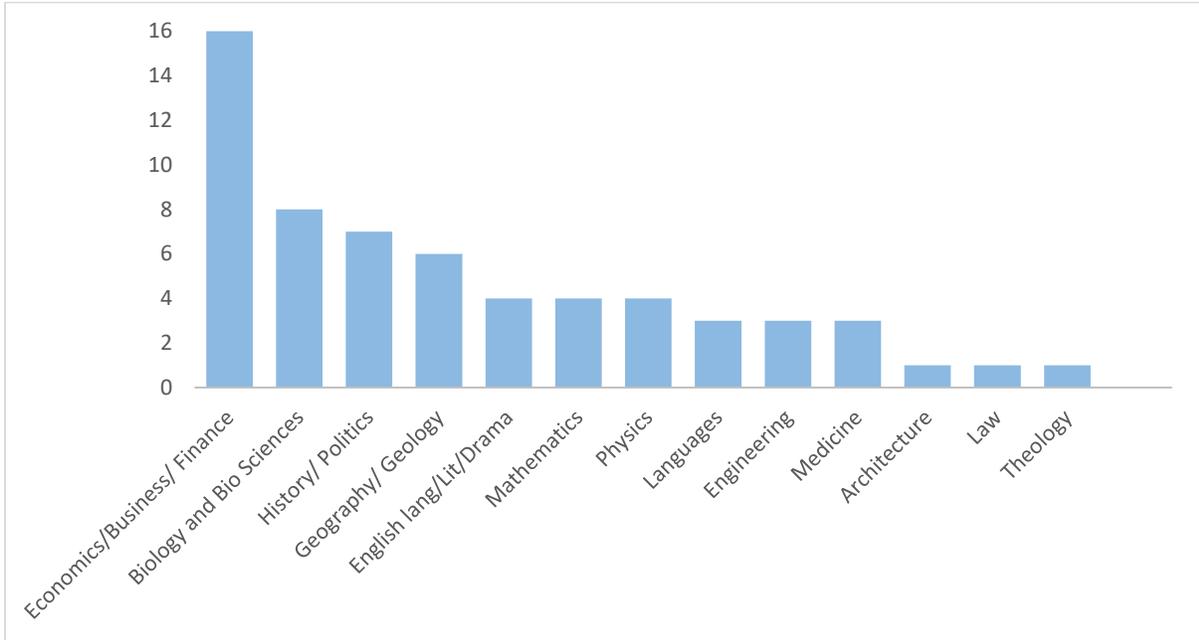
I hope that your sons have been able to make a good start to the academic year. It will be a busy term. Please do take every opportunity to engage and communicate with us be that through Firefly, the Parents' Association, supporting boys in a variety of representative roles (sport, music, drama) or personally. May I remind you that our **Open Evening is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, from 5.00pm to 7.00pm** and our **Open Morning is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, from 9.00 am until 12.30pm**. I should be grateful if parents would encourage any of their friends who might be interested in the School to visit us then.

Yours sincerely

*D Williams*

D Williams  
Acting Headmaster

### Courses 2017



### Destinations 2017

