



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

December 2017

Dear Parents

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank you for your generosity and support and to update you on life in the Junior School.

Curriculum & Assessment –

During this term MTJBS and MTPS have worked in collaboration to fulfil Merchant Taylors' Schools' key strategic aims identified for 2017-2023, in particular academic excellence and personal development. Assessment, recording and reporting has been an area for focus and a review of current assessment procedures is taking place. This is with a view to establishing similar assessment formats for both schools. We are keen however to retain teaching and learning styles which cater for the needs of boys and girls whilst ensuring a uniform approach. Our current rigorous assessment procedures ensure maximum progress in pupils' learning across both schools; we need to retain this whilst making it easier for parents to understand.

At the very centre of our academic curriculum at the Junior Boys' is Maths and English. You will have recently received a letter asking for your support in ensuring your son(s) learns his multiplication tables. I cannot emphasise enough how important this is in order to be able to tackle higher order problems. There is still a place for good old fashioned rote learning of tables! On the website under Parent Area you will also find guides for supporting your son at home with English and Maths. The Galore Park Maths textbook which is used in all year groups can be easily accessed by parents through Firefly.

Two of our School Improvement Plan priorities this year are to focus on improving standards in spelling and promoting higher standards in writing. Again parents can help by ensuring your son reads regularly and learns his weekly spellings. Reading from a wide range of quality genres is crucial in raising boys' attainment generally so please encourage your son to read. Dad's/Grandad's reading with boys, talking about books/newspaper articles, watching you read is particularly effective.

Staffing –

At the end of this term Mr Youngson retires as Pastoral Deputy after 30 years at the school. However we won't be losing him just yet as he will be teaching for 2 days a week until the end of the academic year.

Mr Youngson joined the Junior School in 1987 and was instantly nicknamed 'The Token Youth' by the rest of the staff. His first classroom was where my office and reception are with 30 Year 4 boys. Mr Youngson has always been involved in extra-curricular activities, be it Rugby, Football, Cricket and Biathlon. He is also an accomplished skier and ran very successful ski holidays with Stanfield for 20 years. He has always enjoyed staff sport and captained the staff cricket team and was a stalwart of the staff basketball evenings.

Mr Youngson has worked tirelessly with dedication, enthusiasm and unstinting loyalty for over 30 years to provide boys with the best opportunities possible. I would like to include a testimonial received from an Old Boy Stuart MacCrimmon recently –

The foundations of education have a profound influence on an individual's life. They contribute hugely to one's moral compass, ambition, values and standards, moulding them and enabling personal navigation through myriad daily trials and tribulations. Derek Youngson contributed hugely to these foundations for me, and I am privileged to have been influenced by him both in the classroom and on the sports field. I am certain I would not be where I am today – a Royal Marines Officer, and the Operations Officer of 3 Commando Brigade – were it not for the guidance he and the staff of 87-91 delivered in Prep school. I am sincerely grateful for everything he did.

Stuart's words convey so eloquently all that we know about Derek; he will be a huge loss to MTJBS.



Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby



@MerchantsCrosby



www.merchanttaylorsschools.com

Academic Excellence –

Achievements - MTJBS have had success this term in Chess. Fifteen enthusiastic Chess players Years 3-6, travelled to Bolton Junior School for the annual AJIS Chess Congress. There were 3 teams – U9, U10 & U11. Each boy won at least one game out of their 5 games. Special mention for Martin Chen (Year 4) who won all 5 games, Shamal Harave (Year 5) winning 4 games with 1 draw and Aaron Freddy (Year 3) winning 4 games and a draw. The boys demonstrated Fantastic teamwork encouraging one another and showing great sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Medals were awarded to the top performing pupils in each group –

Martin Chen – Gold	Aaron Freddy – Silver
Joshua Whalley – Bronze	Shamal Harave – Gold
Danish Rajkumar – Bronze	Drew Hutchinson – Bronze

This term has seen the collaboration of pupils from both MTPS & MTJBS attending after school chess coaching. The pupils have been coached by Chess Master Karl Nadin and what a fun and exciting journey it has been! Overall 49 pupils, boys and girls, Infants and Juniors attended each week playing one another in a Swiss Chess Tournament. All players should be congratulated for their skillful playing and mastering the most difficult of games.

Swiss Tournament Results

Overall Tournament Winner – Martin Chen – MTJBS – Year 4

Year 2 Winner	William Zhuo
Year 3 Winners	Aaron Freddy & Emily Chan
Year 4 Winners	Martin Chen & Heather Marshall
Year 5 Winners	Shamal Harave, Fauzaan Syed & Lily Waldron-Brice
Year 6 Winner	Tobi Feyisetan

Well done to all pupils!

Gifted and Talented Geographers – This term has seen the continued success of MTJBS Year 6 Geography Team. Drew Hutchinson, Adam Blagbrough, James Green & James Thompson competed in a local Schools Geography competition held at MTGS. Rounds included Which City? Geography in the News, Flags, Capital Cities, OS Maps and a Countryfile UK section. The boys worked extremely well as a team and answered some really challenging questions supporting one another throughout the various rounds and were awarded 3rd place.

Charity & Community Work –

We are delighted to be supporting the Radio City Mission Christmas Appeal. Pupils have been bringing in gifts suitable for children and young people aged 0-18 years. 1 in 4 local children are living in poverty and this could help make their Christmas a little better. We are also supporting the Liverpool based Mark McQueen Foundation, a charity which offers support to young men and teenagers with mental health issues. Pupils wore their favourite Christmas jumper to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day and 'Make the World Better with a Sweater.'

Sport –

Monty Barr achieved first place in the Y6 AJIS cross country event competing in a field of over 120 runners from schools across NW England, while Joseph Wake Y5 finished second in his event. The school team also had excellent results with five Y5 boys finishing in the top 30 making their team overall winners in its age group. In the regional (NW) biathlon event at Leigh, Monty Barr (Y6) and Joseph Wake (Y5) were first in their age groups. The U10 and U11 teams were 1st and 2nd overall respectively and we are looking forward to participation in national finals again at Crystal Palace.

Our rugby teams have been active this term. Wins for U11 and U10 A and B against Manchester Grammar and AKS started the season well. 48 boys altogether from Y5 and Y6 represented the school in matches v MGS on that day. Our success is notable as Manchester have more than twice the number of pupils to select from. The U10 team look strong and are unbeaten after defeating Birkenhead and winning all their matches in the AJIS festival, which was hosted here. The U11 side narrowly lost to Birkenhead and a strong St Ambrose team. They also had a tough day at QEGS Wakefield festival but did win against Leeds Grammar. Y3 and Y4 teams have been in action at festivals with Y4 team unbeaten in 4 matches and Y3 also looking useful.

Our swimming team have continued their success with three fine wins over Manchester Grammar School, Altrincham Prep School and Bolton School. Once again we performed very well at the AJIS swimming championship, with all our swimmers reaching the finals. Both our year 5 and year 6 relay teams won both the Freestyle and Medley Relays



and there was an Individual Gold for Joseph Wake in the 25m Breaststroke. William Irvine (swimming up as an under 10) finished second in the 100m Individual Medley, Zain Mukhtar finished first in the 25m Butterfly. Christian Syms was third in the under 11 100m Individual Medley, Monty Barr finished third in the 50m Breaststroke. Tom Fielding-Link, Christopher Kirby and James Green all finished just outside the medals in fourth in their events and Shamal Harave did very well to make the final and finish 6th in the backstroke.

School Events –

Last night the Year 3 & 4 boys gave a fantastic performance of 'Robin Hood and the Singing Nun' to family and friends in the Williams Hall. Well done to all involved. Unfortunately I could not attend this year as I was at the Merchants' Hall in London for their annual dinner and service.

The Choir have been very busy singing at various events and homes in the community. The confidence and compassion the boys show to others at these events is uplifting; they are a real credit to their school and families.

The Boys' Junior School PTA Christmas Party takes place on Monday 18 December and thanks go to all parents who have made this special event possible.

There is still much to look forward to as we near the end of the Autumn Term and we end it in the most appropriate way with a celebration of the real meaning of Christmas at The Junior Boys' School Carol Service. The Service takes place on Tuesday 19 December at St. Peter & St Paul's Church and starts at 10.45 am. You are most warmly invited and hope as many of you as possible are able to attend.

Finally I would like to thank parents for their continued support of the school; I know how difficult it can be juggling all the demands you have and your support is much appreciated.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J E Thomas
Head of Junior School

