

Senior Boys

Merchant Taylors' Schools
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**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

18 October 2018

Dear All,

During my first half term at the school I have very much enjoyed getting to know the boys, the staff, the alumni and the parents who make up the Merchant Taylors' community. While I have not yet met everyone, those that I have met have made me feel enormously welcome.

I have especially enjoyed getting to know our wonderful young men. Whether it be dropping in to see music practices, attending debates, wandering into the many clubs and societies or sliding into the back of academic lessons, I have seen dedication, application and, above all, enthusiasm for what they are doing. While ultimately these traits derive from the individual, it is also quite clear that the guidance that the boys receive from the talented and committed staff joined to the considerable support from parents has a galvanising effect on them.

My particular highlights include the Open Evening and Open Morning events last week. It was fantastic to see a large number of boys acting as tour guides or demonstrating activities in various departments around the school. Their enthusiasm for their school is infectious and all prospective parents who I spoke with thought the same. I have also enjoyed my weekly lunches with small groups of Year 7 pupils. Hearing about how busy their lives are, how many clubs and societies in which they are involved, which musical instruments and sports they are playing and so on is invigorating and makes me wonder how they fit it all in. Above all, it has been great to see them so happy.

Perhaps my favourite moment of the year so far occurred after a rugby fixture at Hall Road. One of the opposition players had had to leave the game due to injury. After the match had finished, every player from the Merchant Taylors' team walked over to see how the injured player was. Compassion is such an important quality for our young men to possess and it was wonderful and noteworthy to see this.

Next half term I am looking forward to watching Fame – our joint production with the girls' school – as well as attending the combined Merchant Taylors' Schools' Concert in Birmingham Symphony Hall to commemorate Armistice Day. Equally I am looking forward to hearing about the various trips and expeditions that are taking place over half term.

I want to send my best wishes to all those young men who are sitting their University Aptitude Tests on Wednesday 31st October. They have been working hard in preparation for this for many weeks.

I know that I cannot possibly encapsulate everything that takes place at this busy and vibrant school in a brief letter, but I wanted you to know how proud I am to be at Merchant Taylors'. I wish you all a lovely half term.

Yours sincerely,

David Wickes
Headmaster