

Senior Boys

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

1st July 2019



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As Year 10 draws to its conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support for both your son and the School. I always find Year 10 to be a tough year, both academically and emotionally. GCSE courses are over halfway complete and with hormones raging, it can be a trying time for all. I have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with your sons this year and look forward to supporting them in the challenges that Year 11 will bring.

It would be remiss of me not to mention one of my main focal areas in the Middle School – Mental Health. Mental Health is very much at the forefront of education now, and at “pinch points” such as the lead up to GCSE examinations, it must take precedence. Young men are very good at taking care of their bodies, but less so at taking care of their minds. I will be doing a lot of work with the students next year in a bid to increase the awareness of Mental Health and make it “OK” to talk to someone if they are suffering.

Getting into good habits with regards to phone usage is something which students need to be aware of. I believe that it is so important for us all to have a “Digital Detox” in a bid to help our mental health – this goes for adults as well as young people! There is a wealth of data that suggests increased screen time on both phones and gaming devices is contributing to failing mental health across the country. I hope that you are able to support us as a School to help the students tackle matter such as this.

On Thursday, your sons took part in a session by Elevate – a company which specialise in delivering advice and strategies on study skills (<https://uk.elevateeducation.com/>). I hope they found this interesting and useful, and they can look forward to two more sessions during Year 11 in a bid to hone their revision techniques as the exams approach.

I would like to highlight a date for your diaries, Tuesday 17th September 2019, where Elevate will be running a Parent’s Seminar from 6pm in the Williams Hall. I know that parents who attended this last year found it extremely interesting and useful, with strategies on how to help your son in what will be an extremely important year. I would implore the students to take some time during the long summer break to reinforce and consolidate all work done this year. With the advent of linear GCSE examinations and the elimination of coursework, most subjects have a great deal of content to cover. I urge them to use the summer break wisely.

Please feel free to contact me at any point during the summer (r.yates@merchanttaylor.com).

I would like to wish you a relaxing summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Yates
Head of Middle School

