

Senior Girls

Merchant Taylors' Schools
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Headmistress: **Mrs CA Tao MSc BSc(Hons) Grad.IPD**
Headmistress's: PA: **Mrs J Baccino**



Merchant Taylors'
School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

26th August 2020

Dear Parents

RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020

I am sure none of us would have foreseen the circumstances we currently find ourselves in as a result of COVID-19, this time last year. Looking ahead to the start of the new term next week, I am delighted to be welcoming back all the pupils and staff to MTGS whilst adhering to the Government Guidance and ensuring that the health and safety of everyone in the community is made a priority. As you will have seen from the initial feedback from Scotland in respect of the schools which have already opened, planning for reopening has been complex and ever-changing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those staff who have been working tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure that the doors can open to pupils on the 2nd of September.

As you may be aware, we are guided and bound by the UK government guidance including the ***DfE Guidance for Full Opening: Schools***. We are also following advice from several professional bodies, including:

- Independent Schools Council (ISC)
- Girls' Schools Association (GSA)
- Independent Schools Bursars' Association (ISBA)
- Public Health England (PHE)
- Medical Officer of Schools Association (MOSA)
- Sefton Council Education Department

We will continue to proactively respond to any further challenges that lie ahead with positivity and the resolve to do the very best by all our pupils. Please find attached the MTGS Re-opening document that summaries all the plans that we have put in place to re-open the school.

Arrangements for the week commencing 31st August 2020

Pre-arrival

The Merchant Taylors' Schools, Crosby; a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England: Company Number 6654276
Registered Office: 186 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 0QP
Registered Charity Number: 1125485

All parents will be asked to confirm that neither their children nor any member of their household have either had any Covid-19 symptoms or been in contact with anyone who has shown Covid-19 symptoms for the fourteen days prior to arrival back at School or has been contacted by the NHS Track and Trace Service. The same request will be made of all our staff. A questionnaire will be sent to all families in the next few days asking for relevant medical or travel information.

All parents are expected to follow the Government Guidance on quarantine if you and your family have visited a country which is now on the Government's red list within the last two weeks. If your daughter needs to self-isolate, then we will arrange for work to be set for her on Firefly.

Parents/guardians must inform the school if anyone in their household is diagnosed with Covid-19 as soon as this is known. All our medical procedures will be informed by public health updates.

We ask that parents **assess their child's health each morning** before leaving for school. If they display any of the symptoms as listed below, please do not send them into school. Any pupil arriving at school and developing a temperature of 37.4C or above or displaying any symptoms will be sent home.

The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a. A new, continuous cough
- b. Fever/high temperature (37.7C or greater) at school we have set a temperature of 37.4C being the temperature at which we will send pupils home.
- c. Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

By coming to school, staff and pupils confirm that they are well and symptom-free at the time of departure.

Arrival on the Orientation Day

Further to my earlier letter to you advising which day each year group will return in September, please see below for more details of what pupils need to do upon their arrival at school.

- The school buses will start running from the 2nd of September and pupils will be asked to sit in their respective year groups.
- All pupils are required to wear uniform on their return but, for the first few weeks, they should not wear a school tie.
- Upon arrival at school, all pupils should use the hand sanitiser upon entry into the school and continue to wear their face masks. They should enter the building as per the instructions below:

Orientation Day	Year group	Entry into school	Assembly point upon arrival
Wednesday 2 nd September 2020	Y11	Door into the Derby Wing from the front staff car park	Gym
	Y13	Main school entrance	Centenary Hall
Thursday 3 rd September 2020	Y7	Main School entrance	Centenary Hall
	Y12	Door into the Derby Wing from the front staff car park	Gym
Friday 4 th September 2020	Y8	Main school entrance	Centenary Hall
	Y9	Side Door into the Dining Room corridor	Dining Room
	Y10	Door into the Derby Wing from the front staff car park	Gym

Programme for the Orientation Day

You will shortly be receiving an email from the pastoral team outlining the programme for the Orientation Day. During this day, your daughter will be notified about her form group, timetable and will be given advice and guidance about how to be in school safely.

Equipment and uniform for each school day

Pupils are asked to bring the following with them on each school day:

- A pocket-sized hand sanitiser and pocket-sized disinfectant wipes so that they can always keep these with them. Sanitiser and wipes will be available at school too. Regular hand washing and personal hygiene will be of the utmost importance and all members of the community will be reminded of the guidance in place.
- A water bottle filled with water
- Pupils will not be allocated a locker for the first half term at least. As such, they should only bring into school the equipment that they will need for the lessons that they have on that particular day. **There will be nowhere for them to store anything.**
- When pupils are due to have a Games/PE lesson on a particular day, **they will be required to come to school in PE kit.** If they are staying after school for a sports activity but do not have a Games lesson on that day, pupils should change into sports kit at 4pm.
- **A face mask.** All pupils and staff in line with the recent Government announcement will be expected to wear a face mask when inside the School buildings and travelling between rooms. It will be optional during lessons.

We will continue to communicate with you regarding any changes or updates to our plans. Future changes to this document will be sent to you via Firefly and email, and you will be alerted to any further amendments as and when they arise. Please do not hesitate to contact my PA on j.baccino@merchanttaylors.com if you have any further queries about re-opening.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Tao', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Tao
Headmistress