

Welcome

to Merchant Taylors' Girls' School



Merchant Taylors'
School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

Year 7 Pupil Induction Booklet 2020



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Welcome from Mrs Tao

I am delighted that you have chosen to join Merchant Taylors' Girls' School (MTGS) in September and I feel very honoured to be welcoming you to this fantastic school. I will endeavour to work hard for you and always do my best; I will expect no less from you. No doubt you are full of questions and are a little uncertain about how you will begin, what you will experience and, ultimately, what you will learn from MTGS.

What we can promise you an unswerving dedication from a talented group of staff and pupils. We believe passionately in giving the very best opportunities to all of you to enable each of you to develop a lifelong love of learning. You may already know that we provide fantastic academic outcomes for our pupils. However, we are not here just for results but to educate you as a whole individual. It is not results alone that determine your future but also your mind-set, your character and how you treat others. Having a positive mind-set should be the driver for your own

personal excellence and to ensure that in all that you do you can fulfil the huge potential that we have identified in you.

The school motto is 'concordia parvae res crescunt', which means 'small things grow in harmony'. I would like to encourage you to be unlimited in your dreams for your future and to be completely open to life's possibilities and believe in yourself. Just remember, where there is a will there is always a way! When you are faced with a challenge, and there are likely to be many, you should face it head on and, as a result, you will develop even further.

Together with you and your parents, we will work in partnership with you to ensure that your time with us is rewarding, fun and, above all else, happy.

Headmistress



Welcome from Mrs Moore

I am delighted to welcome you all as our Class of 2026!

When you walk through the entrance of MTGS in September you will be beginning the most amazing journey with each other and, with us, that will finish at the end of the 6th Form after 7 years of wonderful experiences that see you start out as young girls and see you grow into confident young women.

MTGS is a special place and your school family that will support, guide and shape your lives. We will be working closely with you and your parents to celebrate your unique qualities and help you to find out what your potential really might be.

Some of you will become great academics, sportswomen, actors, musicians, ambassadors and leaders and some of you will be a mixture of all or some of these as a result of your time with us. My advice to you is to make the most of every moment! Time is precious, do not waste it and never be frightened of new challenges. Test yourself and strive to improve yourself along every step of this next chapter in your lives.

It is such an exciting time for you and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you in this first year. I promise to always be here to give you advice and guidance, so do come and see me whenever you want to. I look forward to hearing all about your successes both inside and outside of school so come and tell me!

Be kind to each other, always. You will all be very different but you are on this journey together as a year group and you will need to be patient, thoughtful and compassionate in how you communicate and socialise with each other. If you can do this, you will have a strong bond as a year group. So, MTGS Class of 2026, welcome! Let the adventure begin!

Kind Regards

Mrs Moore



Welcome from Head Girl's Team

Dear New Year7's,

Welcome to the Merchant's bubble!

The bubble is a strange thing, and you will hear about it a lot and yet whilst you are in it, you almost do not realise it. It is only once you have left the bubble that you notice how great it was in there, and as you approach the edge of it, like we are now, that you realise how badly you do not want it to burst. The Merchant's bubble keeps you safe, it gives you right away a sense of belonging and the feeling like you have joined a family that will protect and nurture you from the day you join to the day you leave. Except you never truly leave because MTGS becomes part of you as soon as you become part of it and that feeling stays with you as you move on in your life. The bubble cushions you and looks after you but it also challenges and encourages you to be the best you can.

Luckily for you, you are right at the very beginning of your journey, and we would give anything to be in your shoes right now, with everything lying ahead of you. It is scary of course - the thought of meeting new people, having new teachers and changing classrooms for every lesson, but it is also exciting! Look

at it this way, you will be making friends for life, learning more in the subjects you have an interest in and the school lunches are also pretty good, so that is an added bonus.

One piece of advice that we would give you is to get involved in everything that is thrown your way in school. What makes Merchants so special is the extra things you get offered here, so make the most of them. There are so many extracurricular activities to get involved in, and although I am sure you have heard this many times before, this really is the best way to make friends. Give everything a go, and if it does not work for you, that is fine, at least you tried it!

Obviously it is a scary time and it is normal to be nervous, life will change when you join us at MTGS, but just take everything as it comes and try not to worry too much. Most importantly, enjoy your time here. Before you know it you will be where we are today, preparing to move through our final year and say goodbye. So make the most of every moment and opportunity you get at school, because when you get to the end of your time in the bubble, you will never want to leave it behind. Good luck girls!

**From Melissa Hennessy, Jess Fitter
and Ciara Losty**



Hi Year 7,

Right now we are living in strange times and your transition to MTGS is not what it should have been. You will be, as I was this time last year, anxious about starting at MTGS especially as you have not been able to visit us on the usual Welcome Evening in June.

All I want to say at this stage is, do not worry!

You will be worrying but excited about your first day and probably dreaming about it! You will feel sad about leaving some of your primary school friends behind and anxious about meeting new friends, new teachers and being in a new environment.

On my first day my parents waited with me in the reception area and I was taken by 6th formers to my class. Everyone was equally nervous but we were very soon smiling at each other and chatting. The 6th Formers escorted us to our new Forms and made us laugh and relax. They knew how we were feeling and as soon as we were with them my worries started to disappear.

Some of my friends were put into different classes and I was sad about this but I soon realised that at break times we all naturally mingled together and really enjoyed meeting new friends. Many of my friends are the same as in primary school but some of my new closest friends were new to Merchants.

Do not worry about getting lost. We all do it and its expected! Due to this there is always someone nearby who will notice you and happily help you out. It really does not take long before the lay-out of the school

becomes second nature to you and you wonder how you ever managed to get lost in the first place.

It was strange at first when I travelled to different classrooms for each lesson. I had to remember what books to take and where to go but again, after a few weeks and a few forgotten books, this also became second nature to me

Please do not work about the work load. The teachers really understand that starting a new school is stressful and they will never give you work that you cannot cope with. Thankfully, Year 7 does not have any end-of-year exams so it really is a settling in year in every way.

It will be strange being the youngest in the school again but MTGS is a lovely school and you do not need to worry about anything. There is always someone there to support you. Every girl in the school remembers her first day and will feel a sense of pride in being able to help a new year 7, as you will this time next year when you are going into year 8.

I remember loving lunch time as it was so different to primary school. We can all sit wherever we want and the food is very varied with always something for everyone to enjoy. It is at lunch time that I often find myself sitting next to somebody I don't know and making a friendship with them. No one is ever alone at lunch time.

I would encourage you to talk to everyone and try as many extracurricular activities as you can. It is surprising what you will find you enjoy. Going to clubs and extracurricular activities also helps you to make friends outside of your form. The clubs include sporting activities such as hockey, netball, badminton, orchestra, choir, chess, creative writing, anime and many more. You will never be lost for something to do!

I hope you all have a lovely Summer and it will be great to say 'Hi' to you all in September!

Yours sincerely

Lily

Lily Waldron-Brice

Year 7 (Academic year 2019 - 2020)

Welcome from a Year 7



What will MTGS be like?

More Teachers!

**Lots of
subjects**

Exciting!

DIFFERENT!

confusing!

Fun

Friendly



Have a look in the back of your booklet and you will find some maps of MTGS to help you find your way until everything becomes familiar. Remember to just ask for help if you are not sure where to go, everyone including staff and other pupils will help you!

You will be joining the Lower School Section at MTGS. Mrs Moore is Head of the Lower School Section and will be ready to help you to settle in. She is based in the Heads of Section office near the Library. We have a team of Tutors in Year 7 to give you day to day support.



Mrs Heaton
7M Form Tutor



Miss McWatt
7T Form Tutor



Mrs Grindley
7G Form Tutor



Miss Howard
SEND Co-ordinator



Mr Lawell
Designated
Safeguard Lead



Mrs Houghton
Deputy Designated
Safeguard Lead



Mrs Mayne
Deputy Designated
Safeguard Lead



Lyndsey Kevan
School Counsellor

Our School Nurse provides medical care for those who need it.

In addition, we have our Sixth Form Listening Service where a team of experienced older girls are ready to listen to you and give support and help if you need it.

Teachers and older pupils will help you to find your way and will give you lots of advice too.

There are many things to remember when you come to a new school but do not worry, as you can see, there are lots of people ready to help you!

Pastoral Support



Pastoral Support



Mr F Lawell - DIRECTOR OF PUPIL DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS

Acting as pastoral leader for Year 11 is a new and exciting challenge. I was the Head of Sixth Form at MTGS, for five years and this role gave me a wealth of experience in terms of helping prepare pupils for external examinations; ensuring that they have the resilience to cope with what can be a stressful time and allowing them to make a successful transition to the next stage of their educational journey. I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead at MTGS and have recently completed Level 3 training in this area. I am also responsible for tracking pupil progress across the school.



Mrs N Houghton - HEAD OF WELLBEING

I have worked at Merchant Taylors' Girls' School for thirteen years and this will be my second year in a new role as Head of Wellbeing. Wellbeing is more than health and happiness, and I work closely with the other members of the pastoral team to help to make a difference to our pupils, so that they meet their full potential academically, emotionally and socially. I have a Level 2 qualification in Counselling and have also completed Level 3 Safeguarding training.



Ms L Kevan – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

My name is Lyndsey and I am your school counsellor at Merchant Taylors.

Counselling offers students the opportunity to have a confidential space to discuss and explore any worries, fears, self confidence/esteem, relationships and who they think they are or want to be amongst many, many other reasons.

Students can be referred by teachers, by parents or can self-refer without seeking parental consent. However, if to be referred by a teacher or parent you must feel that counselling is something that you want to try because it will never be forced on you. It is really very simple to access, all you need do is email me: L.Kevan@merchanttaylors.com and I will send you a couple of forms to fill in so that we can then start sessions, which will run once a week, in the school day and will be rotated so that you do not miss the same class every week.

Lastly, the staff at Merchant Taylors' are sincere in their efforts to support you as holistically as possible - academically, socially, emotionally and mentally and we welcome feedback with regards how best to do this.

I genuinely look forward to meeting and seeing you around school and hope that your transition is as joyful as can be.



Mrs K Howard – SENCO

We aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for our pupils who may have additional needs and believe each of our girls has the ability to succeed and achieve in all aspects of life.

It is our job to support you in your journey, by recognising your strengths and building independence and confidence, whilst promoting your well-being.

During your school day, I am here to ensure all teachers understand and provide support for you in the classroom and by providing Learning Support Lessons to help with any aspect of your learning. Most importantly, I am always available if you have any concerns or worries regarding your learning.

Sixth Form Mentors

The sixth form girls act as excellent role models for our younger students. They nurture them and listen to them as supporting mentors. This is invaluable as the older pupils have often experienced similar issues and have overcome them successfully.



Lessons

When are my lessons and who will teach me?

You will have a different teacher for each subject and on the next page you will see a summary of the lesson times.

Special areas are used for different lessons for example the laboratories for the Sciences and the Art room for Art lessons.

You will have 5 lessons in a day with 3 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. All lessons will be doubles and 65mins long.

You will be given your own timetable of lessons on your first day, do not worry, you will soon get used to things when you have been here for a few days.



Mandarin ● Chemistry ● Drama ● English ● Mathematics ● French/Spanish

Music ● Information ● Technology ● Biology ● Physical Education ● German

History ● Religious Studies ● Technology (Food & Textiles) ● Geography

Classical Studies ● Physics ● Art ● Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)

at MTGS



The School Day and Break

The school day is very busy and starts promptly at 8.40am. You will need to be in your Form Room with the correct equipment, wearing your school uniform appropriately and sat at your desk ready to listen to your Form Tutor at this time.



TIME	PLACE	MINS
8.40 - 8.50	Registration in forms	10
8.50 - 9.55	Period 1	65
9.55 - 10.05	Transition	10
10.05 - 11.10	Period 2	65
11.10 - 11.30	Break	10
11.30 - 12.35	Period 3	65
12.35 - 1.40	Lunch	65
1.40 - 2.45	Period 4 inc Registration	10
2.45 - 2.55	Transition	10



What to bring on the first day in September

In order to take full advantage of your lessons you should have the correct equipment with you in your school bag. These should include the following items:

- *pencil Case containing blue and black pens*
- *HB pencil*
- *pencil sharpener*
- *eraser*
- *some coloured pencils*
- *a glue stick*
- *a pair of round tipped scissors*
- *inexpensive fountain pen or rollerball pen to help encourage clear, legible handwriting*
- *30cm ruler*
- *a calculator*
- *tissues*
- *a refillable water bottle.*

Mobile phones must be switched off and handed in to the trays provided in the entrance hall.

A small amount of money is useful for morning break snacks or you can bring your own snacks – please have healthy snacks not ones high in fat, sugar or salt! We do like all girls to have their own re-fillable drinking bottle with them throughout the day that is topped up only at break or lunch time not during a lesson!



Please DO NOT bring valuable items to school in case they get damaged or lost. Any valuables that you HAVE to bring in should be handed in to reception when you arrive for safe keeping until you need them.

You will be in your Winter school uniform, remember to tie back your hair and no jewellery other than a single gold or silver stud in each ear lobe.



Organisation and Homework



You will have homework after a few days and your tutor will give you a homework timetable on your first day so that you can start to get organised. Your Tutor will also give you a planner to use for writing down homework that has been set.

Always pack your bag the night before and tick off your homework using your planner before putting it in your bag. This will help you to hand in your homework on time.

Make sure all of your uniform and your PE kit is named clearly. Your PE kit should have your name on the outside of each item. This will help us to return it to you should you lose it.

Put your name on your pencil case and on any items inside it that you want to keep safe.

Please also name your school coat as well as your blazer. Naming your belongings will help to ensure they are returned to you if they become lost.

You will have a locker near your classroom to store your books in during the day, try to use this sensibly so that you are not carrying too much in your school bags during the day. It is best to unpack your school bag into your locker when you arrive in the morning and then just put back into it your first two lesson's books. Remember you can return to your locker at the break and lunchtimes to re-organise your bag for the next two lessons.

You will also have a cube locker for your PE kit, please clearly name your PE bag on the outside before storing it and all bags should be secured with a padlock as your cube lockers are open fronted. This just deters anybody from 'borrowing' your kit!

Extracurricular

Taking part in the wider life of the school will be an important part of your time at MTGS. There will be so many different activities that you can join in during lunchtime and after school that will enrich your time at MTGS as well as help you to become a more confident member of the school community. You can not only learn new skills but also make new friends and may have the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities and develop your leadership skills.

These opportunities are in academic subjects, sport, music, drama, art, chess, costume design, knitting and stitching, gardening and art with many other opportunities to join committees and social groups too.



Opportunities

House Competitions

You will belong to one of the 3 Houses - **Minerva**, **Thalia** and **Gaia** and for the duration of your time at MTGS. Minerva is the blue House and Minerva is the Goddess of Wisdom and Strategy. Thalia is the red House and Thalia is the Goddess of Comedy and Joy. Finally, Gaia is the green House and Gaia is the Mother of Life, Mother Nature.

During the year you will get to know the other girls in your House really well through taking part in a variety of Inter-House competitions which include: Drama, Music and Sport. We also run an Inter-House Quiz and there are likely to be other subject related events for you to enjoy. The Houses also work together for charity events too.

The House Cups and Shields are all highly prized and competitively fought for in challenging and fun competitions. Be proud of your House and try to represent it in different competitions. You will get to know girls in other years who are in your House and they will cheer you on. Each House has a House Captain – have a look on the House noticeboards near to the Heads of Section office to see what is going on within your House. Have a look further on within this booklet to discover who your respective Sixth Form House Captains are.



A Few Simple Rules to Follow

Our school rules are just there to keep you safe and happy and most of them you will just find out about along the way but here are a few to remember when you first arrive.

- Be on time to school, lessons, lunchtimes, clubs and meetings.
- Walk on the left in the corridors and on the stairs.
- Be courteous to each other and to the staff.
- Hold the doors open for each other, say thank you lots!
- Hand your mobile phones in – you cannot use them during the school day.
- Do not chew gum – it is not allowed in school!
- No make-up and no jewellery other than a gold or silver stud in the lobe of pierced ears – remember you HAVE to remove earrings for every PE lesson.
- Hand in your homework on time.
- Skirts must be knee length.
- No food or drink can be consumed in a classroom or in a corridor - only in the dining room or outside.
- Keep our school tidy and put all litter in the bins.
- Do not run inside the school building.
- Do not leave your School Bag or your PE bag in the corridor.
- Keep your locker areas clear of belongings – store your things inside your lockers.
- Observe the Upper Thompson Building One Way System.
- Sing in assembly – remember you are part of our MTGS school community.
- Stand up when a member of staff enters your classroom.
- Observe the silence rule going into and out of assembly.
- Care about others in school and help everyone to be happy.

Messages from Year 7's

“On my first day, I was really worried about my new class. What would they be like? But as I walked through the door, I saw everyone smiling up at me, making me feel welcome.”

“It is not as scary as it seems. Even though you may think it is big, it is not. If you get lost, ask someone and if you arrive late they will understand. There is a great range of subjects, clubs and really great teachers”

“Everyone is so welcoming and kind! I made friends on my first day. Everyone is in the same situation whether you have come by yourself or with a big group of people! Everyone wants to make new friends so I just put myself out there and I ended up with some GREAT friends and I am loving it here at Merchants.”

“Before I started I was a bit worried that my new subjects were going to be much harder than my old ones but now they are among my favourites and the teachers are really nice and make their subjects fun.”

“The school might seem scary but when you get settled in it's a warm welcoming school
It's like a big family”

“Merchants' teachers are helpful and kind. If you are confused in a lesson don't be afraid to ask for help. The staff will understand and are always ready to help you.”

“When I came to MTGS I knew two people and I was scared about making new friends but I settled in fast and made loads of new friends. I joined some activities when I came and they were really fun. I was worried about the amount of homework I would get but once I got into the routine I found it really easy to cope with the amount of homework I got.”

“The food is varied and is extremely tasty even fussy eaters will enjoy it.”

“Senior school is really awesome! Trust me, you will have a really good time here. Making friends is incredibly easy here at MTGS. When you see a group of girls you won't realise that in a day you will probably be best friends! I don't think there has been a day when I haven't smiled since becoming an MTGS girl.”

“You may not know anyone when you come to MTGS, but do not worry! You will make tons of friends!”



Emily Jones
Minerva House Captain

Hi my name is Emily Jones and I am Captain of Minerva House. Minerva is the Goddess of Wisdom and Strategy and her symbol is in the shape of an owl. Our House colour is blue and Minerva was a gracious winner in war, so we focus on having good sportsmanship when it comes to a competition. I really hope you may be in my House and demonstrate that you have the good judgement and clever planning that epitomises the girls in Minerva House! I look forward to hopefully seeing you in Minerva House in September.



Lili McCaughrean
Thalia House Captain

Hi my name is Lili McCaughrean and I am Captain of the Thalia House. Thalia is the Goddess of Comedy and Joy, our House colour is red. I really hope you may be in my House and demonstrate that you have the light heartedness and wit that epitomise Thalia girls! I look forward to hopefully seeing you in Thalia House in September.



Mollie Jones
Gaia House Captain

Hi! My name is Mollie Jones and I am your Gaia House Captain! I can't wait to get to know you all and I'm sure you will all make our House fun and friendly. 'Gaia' means the 'mother of all life' and she is often seen holding the earth- which relates to why our colour is green. I am so excited to see you all next year!



Maisie Lavelle
School Games Captain

Hi I am Maisie Lavelle, your Games Captain and I would love to try and get as many of you involved in sport at school as possible. There are so many amazing opportunities and different sports on offer. It is also a great way to meet new girls in different forms!



Cara Ellis
School Drama Captain

Hi I am Cara Ellis and I am your Drama Captain! I want all of you to feel welcome in the Drama department, no matter how talented or confident you think you are, it is all about having fun and putting on great productions for the school! One of the best parts is making friends with girls and boys from across the whole school and building that confidence within yourself. I hope to see all of you getting involved with us whether that is backstage or on stage, everyone is welcome!



Freya Cumine
School Music Captain

Hi I am Freya Cumine, your Music Captain and I hope that many of you will get involved in music. There are so many amazing opportunities such as concerts and tours as well as different ensembles/clubs on offer. It is also a great way to gain new skills and meet girls in different forms and in different year groups too!

Year 7 Form Allocation
2020/2021

MINERVA

7M Mrs Heaton



Lucy Byrne
Hannah Booth
Madeleine Clark
Grace Doyle
Elizabeth Forsyth
Milly Gilbert
Anya Jain
Charlotte Lyons
Kanyaw Markane
Nadia Hasan
Teresa-Lynn Pallas
Selena Neequaye
Emma Price
Sophia Richardson
Olivia Rohrer
Leela Sahu
Ava Schorah
Isabelle Sprawson
Esme Stockell
Pippa Vegh
Caitlin Williamson

Year 7 Form Allocation
2020/2021

THALIA

7T Miss McWatt



Scarlett Adderley
Harriet Barton
Michelle Chen
Tallulah Didlick
Erin Fay
Zona Goje
Dolly-Mae Gwynn
Mia Hanley
Sophie Jackson
Cooper Kennedy
Heather Marshall
Annabelle Mettrick
Lola Patel
Tallulah O'Connor-Smith
Amber Phillips
Addie Robinson
Sophia Shaw
Eleanor Telfer
Esther Williams
Georgia Wright

Year 7 Form Allocation
2020/2021

GAIA

7G Mrs Grindley

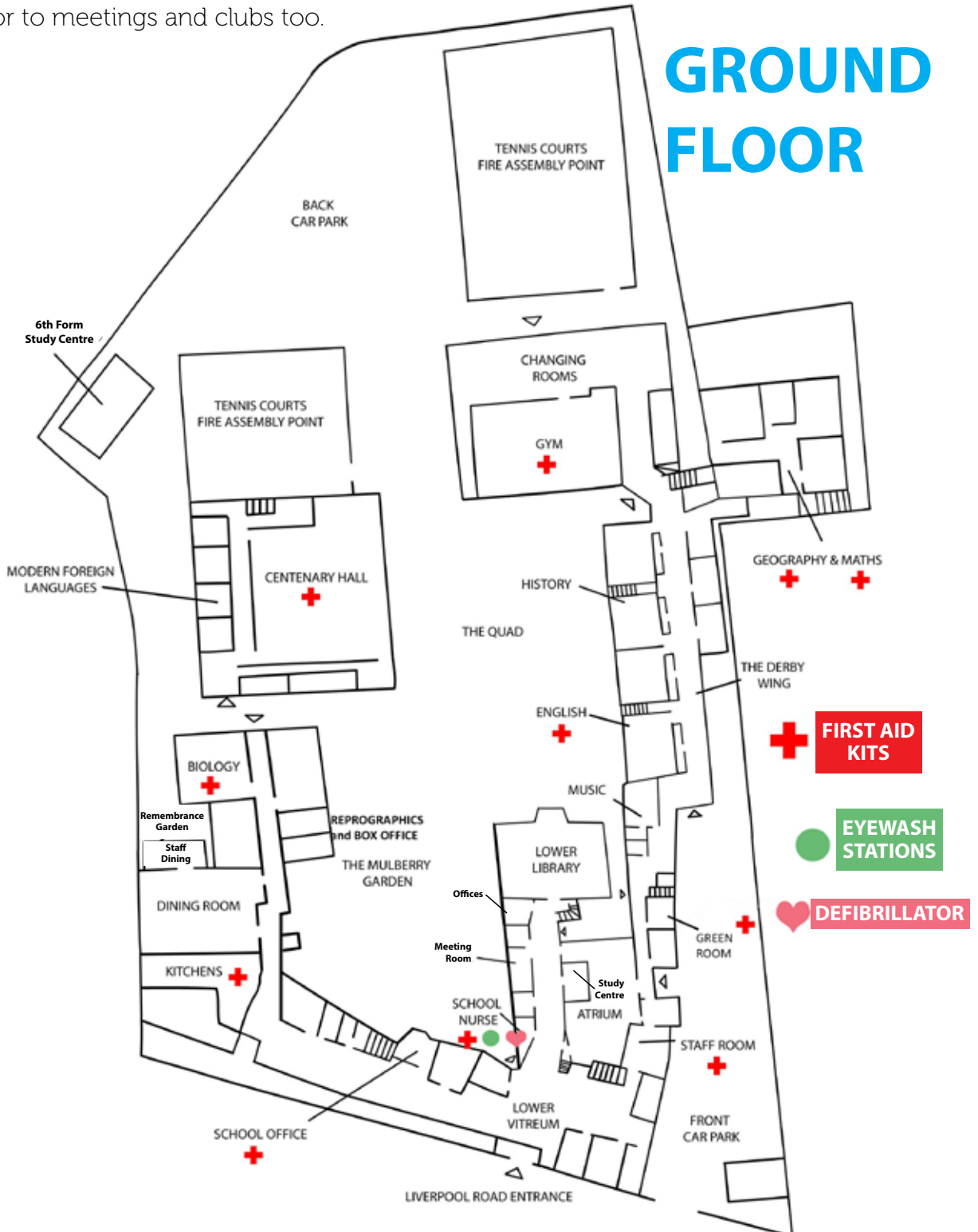


Eleanor Ainsworth
Sophia Atkins
Dakota Backhouse
Maddison Dixon
Tori Edwards
Ellie Lattimer
Amelie Katz-Brennan
Lucy Lin
Mya Laycock
Maisy McBain
Grace McClelland
Harriet Munro
Piranetha Nesarasa
Gabriella Morrisey
Anju Roy
Charlotte Roseberry
Sofia Shakespeare
Lauren Underwood
Harriet Vernon
Lucy Worthy

Getting around our school...

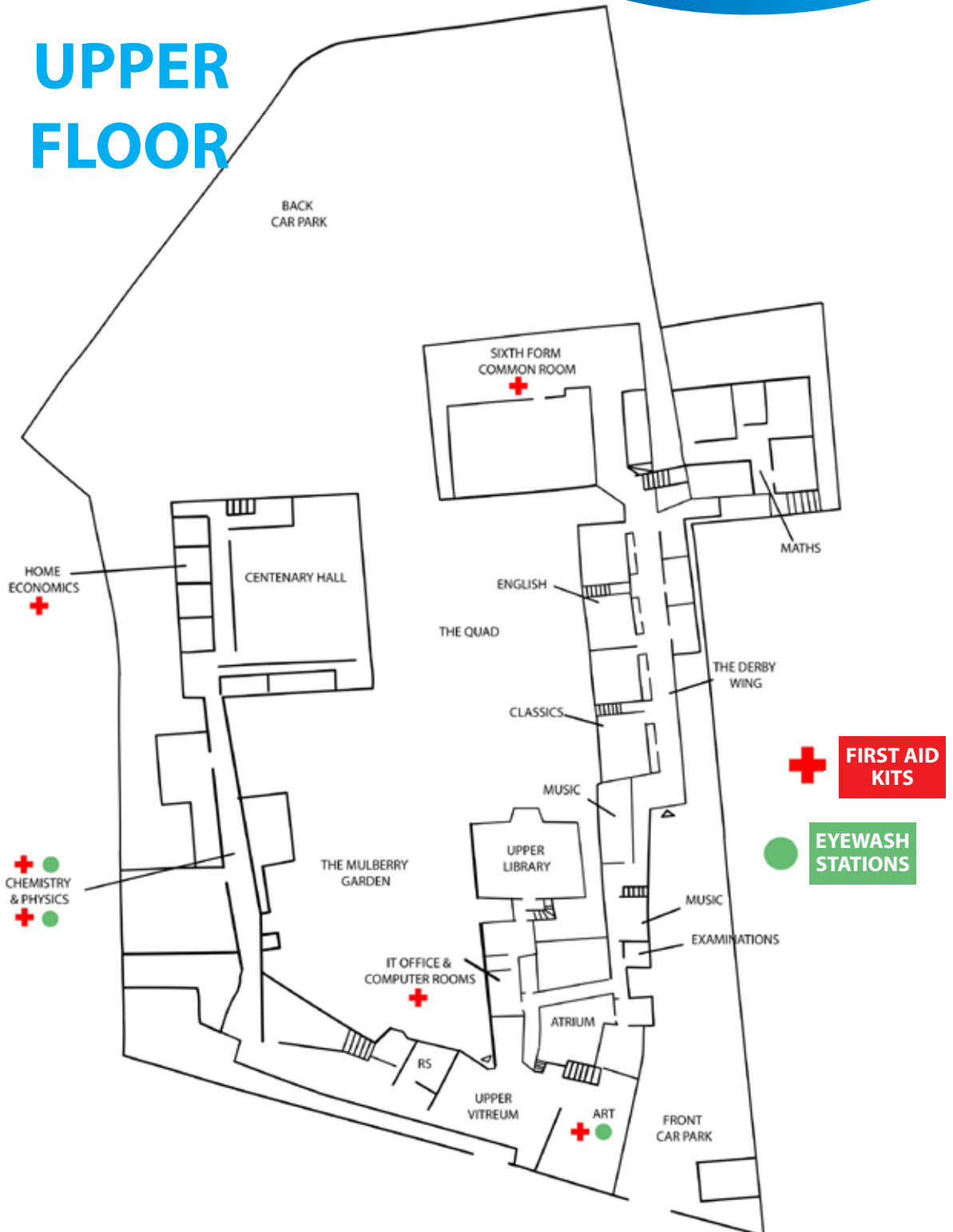
These maps will help you to find your way round school in the first few weeks. Remember though that we are all here to help you to find your way to your lessons or to meetings and clubs too.

GROUND FLOOR



We have a pull out map below for you to carry in your school bag. You will also find information about Music lessons and LAMDA in the separate leaflets.

UPPER FLOOR





Merchant Taylors' School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

Merchant Taylors' Girls' School
80 Liverpool Road
Crosby
Liverpool
L23 5SP

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