



Merchant Taylors' School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

Welcome

to Merchant Taylors' Senior Boys' School



INFORMATION FOR NEW YEAR 7 PUPILS 2020-2021

Name



Contents

Welcome from the Headmaster	4
A Word from the Head of Lower School and the Head of Year 7	5
Induction Day - 6th September 2019	6
Your Form	7
Work	8
Firefly	10
Rules, Rewards and Sanctions	11
Staying Organised	12
The School Day (Timetable)	13
Map of the School	14
Literacy	15
The Library	16
Sport at Merchant Taylors'	17
Music at Merchant Taylors'	18
The Lower School Play	19
House Competitions	20
Activities Afternoon	21
Peer Support	23
Hello from the School Nurse	24
School Council	25
Clubs and Activities	26
Food	28
Lost Property and Nearly New Uniform	29
Comments from Year 7 Pupils	30
Merchant Taylors' Old Boys' Association	31

Welcome from the Headmaster



Congratulations on gaining a place at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School. I am delighted that you will be joining us. And what a year you have chosen to join in! Surely it will go down in the 400 year old history of the school as momentous.

I myself only joined the school a couple of year ago. I can well remember my emotions at the time: a mixture of excitement, enthusiasm and a little nervousness. I can also remember how kind and friendly everyone was, helping me fit in, answering my questions and pointing me in the right direction when I appeared a little lost. I very much hope that you have a similar experience and I know that there are many people, both older pupils and staff, who are only too keen to help you.

We all want you to do well at school but, above all, we want you to be content and to make the most of all the opportunities that are available to you. Boys who are busy and who throw themselves whole-heartedly into all aspects of school life are often those who are most happy.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your parents over the course of the year. Have a good summer and see you in September.

Mr D Wickes
Headmaster

Mr J Andrews Deputy Head Academic



Mr Andrews oversees all matters that relate to the academic curriculum you study at school. He teaches Economics and Mathematics, as well as coaching football. You might well see him visiting your lessons to check you are working hard and asking plenty of insightful questions

Mr D Williams Deputy Head Pastoral



Mr Williams looks after all of the people that look after you - including your Form Tutor, Head of Year, and Head of Lower School. A big part of his role is ensuring that you feel happy in school.

Welcome from the Head of Lower School



A very warm welcome to Merchant Taylors' and the Lower School. The Lower School comprises Years 7, 8, and 9 - the first three years of your school career, from the Induction Evening tonight until you start Year 10.

My job is to oversee your progress and welfare in the Lower School and work with Mr O'Brien and the form tutors to ensure that you make a smooth transition into Senior School. We want you to settle in quickly and thrive as you develop from Junior School boys to young men. This year is about getting the foundations right and making sure you feel part of this wonderful school.

I am very much looking forward to working with you and your parents over the next three years. Give everything 100% and you will absolutely thrive at MTBS

Mr N Hunt

Welcome from the Head of Year 7



Firstly, can I say a big 'hello' and 'welcome' to you as your Head of Year 7. I'm sure that as you read and familiarise yourself with this booklet that you have mixed emotions about September. On the one hand, you may feel excited and ready to get your teeth into the new challenge of senior school, but on the other hand, I expect you are also nervous. Don't worry - that's entirely normal! I am sure that you will soon settle in to being at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School and will make many new friends.

There is so much to get involved in here at school. You will study new and exciting subjects, get involved in new sports, be able to try your hand at musical activities and much more besides. Before you start school, I would like to set you a challenge: to say 'yes' more than you say 'no'. As you encounter the many new experiences ahead of you, I hope that you get fully involved in school life. You never know what fun and exciting things you might find out that you enjoy!

I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Mr J O'Brien





As you prepare for your Induction Day with us in September you probably have lots of questions and will feel somewhere between really excited and really nervous all at the same time. Try not to worry. We are all here to make sure your first day is very enjoyable.

When You Arrive

All you need to do is get yourself straight to the Ian Robinson Sports Centre where you will be shown upstairs to the PE classrooms. You will meet your Form Tutor and spend the morning finding out about your timetable, having a tour around the school and you will have an introduction to Firefly, which is vital to your organisation. You will have your school photo on this day too, so make sure that you look smart! In the afternoon session you will meet your House Masters and will be involved in two House Competitions. It promises to be lots of fun!



What do I need with me on Induction Day?

Please wear full school uniform on this day.
Please also bring with you:

- Complete pencil case with an ink pen, pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler and # glue stick
- This booklet
- Your school bag
- Bottle of water
- Rock and River reply slips

You do not need PE or Games Kit on this day.

When does the day end?

The day will finish at 3:30pm, when you need to be picked up by your parents from the Ian Robinson Sports Centre. Refreshments will be served from 3:20pm, so we invite you and your parents to come and meet staff. Please note, there will be no school buses on this day.

We hope that you are looking forward to a fun-filled day!

Your Form

At the Induction Evening you will have been introduced to all of the Form Tutors. Your Form Tutor is a valuable point of contact for both you and your parents. He or she will be in charge of you for a full year and will probably teach you for at least one of your lessons. You'll see him/her every day at registration, in the morning and the afternoon. During form time your tutor will give out important information, will deal with practical issues and will generally keep an eye on how you are doing. Twice a week you will also attend a Full Assembly with the whole school, as well as additional Year and House Assemblies throughout the term.

What to do if you miss registration

In an ideal world you will not be late, but if you are, you must report to the Lodge at the main gate and sign in.

What to do if you are off school

Your parent/guardian should phone the school on the first morning that you are off.

What to do if you are worried or unhappy

Speak to your form tutor - that is what they are there for. Or you could have a chat to your Peer Supporter.

Break times and Lunch times

We hope that you will make the most of your lunchtimes to get some fresh air or attend one of our fantastic clubs. You are allowed to be in your own form room, but you should not go into other form rooms.



Academic work

What subjects will I study?

Some of the subjects that you study will be similar to what you were used to in primary school, but others will be completely new. We are sure that you will find something that you really enjoy. As you move up the school there will be more choice, so that you can eventually shape your own curriculum.

The subjects you study in Year 7 are: Maths, English, Science, French, Spanish, Latin, History, Geography, Religion Studies and Philosophy, Design Technology, Computer Science, Music, Art, Drama and Physical Education.

You will also have PSHE lessons and Games.

Are all of my lessons in my form room?

No, you will get used to moving around the school to different departments. Most of the time, you will move around as a form so you will be able to find your way together.

Will there be lots of exams?

The Year 7 curriculum is all about you being a curious, creative and confident learner. As such, the emphasis is not on exams but all about you exploring interesting questions and ideas. Yes, there will be assessments in certain subjects at specific times of the year, and summer exams, but this is nothing to worry about. Each subject has their own set of marking criteria and your teacher will explain to you how your work is graded and how you know what progress you are making.

How do I know how much progress I am making in my learning?

As you are now in the senior school, you will be asked to regularly reflect on your own learning and how you can improve. You might be asked to write some action points following a homework task, or answer a questionnaire during registration. The idea is to encourage you to think about your progress and how you learn best. Your teachers will also give you regular verbal and written feedback following homework tasks. Your job is to make sure that you take notice of this and follow any guidance that they give you.

How much homework will I have?

Typically, you should receive no more than three subjects per night, each of around twenty minutes. Not all homework is due in the next day. Your teacher will always tell you what the homework is and when it is due in, and will publish this information on Firefly. Homework is really important as it tells us what you have understood, gives you the opportunity to hone key skills or helps you prepare for upcoming lessons. We would advise, when possible, to do homework on the night that it is set so that you have time to see a teacher if you are stuck. Sometimes you will be set work which you will need to complete over a number of days/weeks.



Firefly

In order to keep you organised, fully informed and give you access to learning materials from each of your teachers, Merchant Taylors' School uses Firefly. This takes over the role that homework diaries or planners used to have. Firefly is a website that will act as an organiser, telling you what lessons you have coming up. It will also have resources to help you learn, such as videos, presentations and documents. Firefly helps you in recording homework for you, keeping a schedule of what homework needs to be done and by when. It will even allow you to send it to teachers from home.

You will have a training session on Firefly during the induction day in September.

You can use Firefly to find out what sports fixtures you might have taking place each week. This will help you plan your time as you will be expected to play sport for the school on a Saturday morning when you are selected. Teachers can use Firefly to tell you and your parents about what equipment you need to bring or what activities you will be involved in. Teachers also use Firefly to mark work and send feedback to you. Your parents can log into Parent Portal to find out what work you have and what your assessment grades are.

What do I do if I'm stuck with my work?

The 4 Bs can help you here:

Book - first look in your exercise book, textbook or in other resources you have been given to see if you can find the answer.



Book

Brain - have a think about what the difficulty is. What do you know? What don't you know yet? Have you encountered a similar problem before that could help you now?



Brain

Buddy - could you work with a friend to solve the problem or challenge together?



Buddy



Boss

Boss - tell your teacher you are struggling and that you have tried to find the answer yourself but now you need some support. Your teachers are there to help you. They want you to be independent in your learning but will always be there to assist you as you need them. Your teacher may ask to see you for a subject clinic at lunchtime. If a teacher asks you to attend a clinic it is not a punishment. It is an opportunity for you to receive the help and support that you need. We hope that you will soon take responsibility for your learning and take yourself along to clinics when you would like some extra support with your work.

Rules, Rewards and Sanctions

School Rules

You will find detailed school rules on Firefly, but here are some key things for you to remember:

- Line up quietly outside your classroom before class.
- Stand up when a teacher enters a room.
- Keep your shirt tucked in and your top button done up.
- Your blazer should be worn at all times.
- Your hair should be kept short - off the collar and off your ears.

Laboratories

It is really important that you are safe around school - particularly in the case of specialist classrooms like laboratories. The corridor between CL1 and the Chemistry Office is out of bounds to all pupils. If you have lessons in CL3 or CL2 you have to line up for class outside the Biology end, and if you have a lesson in CL1 then you wait on the bridge between the Science Lab and CL1.



Merchants' Stars and Late Slips

If you do a particularly good piece of work, or are putting in a significant amount of effort, then your subject teacher may reward you with a Merchants' Star, which enables you to gain points, which accumulate across each term. Merchants' Stars are added to Firefly, so they are visible to your parents. A particularly outstanding achievement might even result in a Head of Department Star/Head of Year Star or you may be invited to see the Headmaster for a Headmaster's Star.



If you fail to hand in a homework when it is due, or it is incomplete or sub-standard then your teacher is likely to issue you with a Late Slip. Be warned - these slips are added to Firefly so that your parents can see them! If you accumulate a number of Late Slips in a term you will then receive a detention. Teachers will also record on Firefly issues with organisation, such as forgetting your books. Try not to worry about this - many teachers will give you a chance when you first arrive at school. But try to get yourself organised quickly.

Staying Organised

Now that you are at Senior School and you move around to different classrooms to visit different teachers it is going to be really important that you stay organised. You will have to think about what books to pack for each day and what equipment you need to bring with you. We would recommend packing your bag the night before. Have a look at this checklist to help you:

The Night Before

- Homework tasks
- Books/resources
- Sports or other equipment
- Letters from your teachers

Before Going Home

- Homework due in
- Pencil Case
- Books for lessons
- Sports kit/musical instrument
- Letters/reply slips to return

Have you thought about where you are going to keep your books at home?

Don't leave all of your things strewn over your bedroom floor! Get organised now. Think about where is going to be best to keep everything so that you can be prepared for your first few weeks at a school.



Mobile Phones

Your mobile phone is useful for checking Firefly, your timetable and key information. However, mobile phones are not to be out at any other time during the school day, unless requested by a teacher.

You must check Firefly on computer each evening—not just on your mobile.

Lost Property

There is more detailed information about lost property on page 28 of this booklet. Please read this carefully. It is really important that all of your uniform and personal items are clearly labelled with your name. Money and small items of value – iPods, watches, mobiles - are usually handed in to the school office. If you have to change for PE you really shouldn't have valuable items with you, but it would be wise to hand them in to be looked after. And please don't leave bags lying around in corridors! This is dangerous, and the duty patrol teacher or a monitor will probably remove them.



The School Day

8.40 - 8.50	Registration/Assembly/ PSHE
8.50 - 9.55	Period 1
09.55 - 10.05	Lesson changeover
10.05 - 11.10	Period 2
11.10 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.35	Period 3
12.35 - 13.40	Lunch
13.40 - 14.45	Period 4
14.45 - 14.55	Lesson changeover
14.55 - 16.00	Period 5
16.00	End of the school day Buses depart
16.00	School Detention begins (Tuesdays)

The school timetable works on a two week basis. There is a Week A and a Week B. Your lessons will be at different times each week. Signs telling you whether it is Week A or Week B are displayed at School and it will be clear to see which week is which when you log into Firefly.

Activities will take place every Friday afternoon in Week B.

You will also have a Games session every week.

Literacy

Aside from English lessons, there are lots of ways in which we encourage good literacy skills. Each form will have at least one Registration each week used for reading, so it is important that you always have a reading book in your bag. We also have a number of literacy competitions throughout the year - look out for posters on the noticeboard outside E5. A highlight for the whole year is World Book Day, which is held in March. Year 7 pupils have author events in the Library on this day, having an opportunity to hear from authors of books aimed at your age group.

Lower School Reading Group

If you are a keen reader, you can join the Lower School Reading Group, which meets each week. You are asked to read several novels, talk about them and write reviews. We also take part in the Kids' Lit Quiz. Later in the year we read the shortlists for the Sefton Super Reads award and the Carnegie Medal. We go to the award afternoon, and may have the chance to meet some of the authors! The Carnegie Shadowers are invited to a special lunch with pupils from other schools, to vote for their own favourite and hear the announcement of the winner in London.

The Library

The library is full of treasure! Books, magazines, newspapers and activities enrich your free time; you have a quiet space to read or work before and after school and during breaks. You could even get to meet some authors - recently we have heard Tom Palmer and Andy Briggs talk about the inspiration for their writing. For boys who like the idea of creating stories for themselves we have had creative writing workshops with some of these authors. We also hold events for World Book Day.

Library Helpers

You can volunteer to help in the library once a week. You get to unpack parcels of new books, check invoices, and use a library stamp. Then you have the chance to read them first! Other tasks involve using the library computer and helping other pupils to find information. You can also help at the charity book sale at the end of the year, and haggle with staff over the price.

Author Visits

Our librarian often organises for authors to visit our library and give a talk to pupils. You can buy one of their books and they will sign it for you.



Map of School



Sport at Merchant Taylors'

Games and Physical Education are an integral part of the curriculum throughout the school. You will take part in both PE and Games lessons during your time at school.

PE Lessons

You will have a PE lesson once a week which will give you the opportunity to learn the basic skills in a variety of sports, such as:

Fitness	Basketball
Softball	Athletics
Badminton	Gymnastics

You will need the white school PE kit for your PE lessons (including white socks). If for any reason you can't bring the correct kit with you or you are injured so you cannot participate, you must bring in a signed note from your parents explaining the situation.

Games Lessons

Year 7 Games takes place once a week. The four main sports we offer are rugby, hockey, football and cricket, each having weekend fixtures against other schools. We also run a sports development programme for those boys who are not involved in the squads. This programme offers a wider variety of sports for you to take part in.

For rugby, hockey and football pupils should wear the school black socks and shorts with the reversible black and yellow top (plus a mouth guard for rugby/hockey). It can be very cold at Hall Road, so you are allowed to wear full under-layer garments (upper and lower body) under your games kit. These items must be black.

PE/Games Staff

Mr S Cooke

Head of Boys' Games/Hockey

Mr G Stiff

Head of Academic PE/Football

Mr J Weare

PE Teacher



"Performance is not a skill exclusive to the Arts. Whether you want to be a Musician on the world stage, a Lawyer, Doctor or any other position that will require you to communicate your point to an audience, being able to perform and by having the level of resilience which learning an instrument nurtures, you will be a far more well-rounded student as a result of your time studying Music at Merchant Taylors' Boys' School."



Music at Merchant Taylors'

Do you play an instrument?

Whether you play an instrument, you have an interest in learning one or you just have a favourite song, you have a passion for this subject which we are here to encourage. Here in the Music school, we want to encourage your musical interests and see you achieve your full potential through:

Using our state-of-the-art Mac suite

We appreciate that composition is no longer restricted to a pencil and manuscript. Here you will learn how to compose and produce Music using the industry standard software we have access to.

Practical lessons

We are very fortunate to have high quality resources which allow our subjects to come to life. Whether it's Keyboard skills, African Percussion or Samba, to name but a few, pupils will enjoy hands on, engaging lessons that brings Music to life.

Theory work

Where we learn the important fundamentals that support our understanding of Music and will help us perform and compose in our practical lessons.

Music is so much more than an academic subject. If you want to excel, you should join our extra-curricular programme. We are a bustling department equipped with six spacious rehearsal rooms, a Mac Suite and a terrific performance space. Our various ensembles rehearse frequently and instrumental lessons take place throughout the day, everyday.

If you have an interest in learning an instrument, please sign up for lessons using the following link: bit.ly/MTBSinstrument

Which musical ensembles can I join?

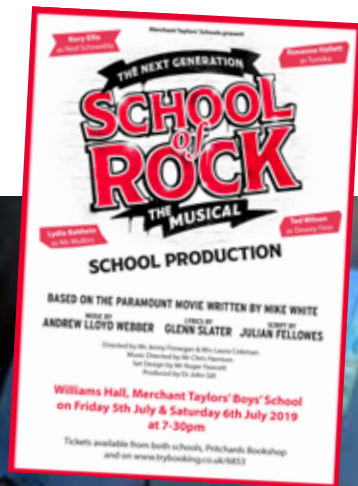
We introduce new groups to meet the needs and interests of pupils every year. There are also a range of core ensembles which perform regularly at our concerts, in the local community and at the Royal Albert Hall on occasion.

If you have any questions regarding the Music Department and how you can be part of our Musical community, come and talk to Mr. Furmedge or Mr. Harrison in the Music office.

The Lower School Play

Our Lower School Drama Club is very popular with the boys. It gives pupils the opportunity to play many different improvisation games and devise plays. This year pupils are involved in a production of 'School of Rock'. Rehearsals are in full swing and the production is looking very promising! The auditions usually take place near the start of the year and all those who attend Drama Club are usually involved, as well as other boys. It is a mixed production with MTGS and an opportunity for the schools to come together. We then set about rehearsing. The boys have enjoyed working on this musical - written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and have created some well rounded and very realistic characters.

The play takes place in July and we are hoping it will be a great success. All boys who are taking part are fantastic and it is so encouraging seeing the budding talent coming through the school. Parents and staff are invited to come and watch these plays and they are very well attended. Each year we choose a different play and we have so far performed The Wizard of Oz, Adrian Mole, Grimm Tales, Our Day Out, The Jungle Book, Blood Brothers, Lord of the Flies and Teechers



Front of House Crew

The role of the Front of House Crew is to help sell tickets for forthcoming plays and musicals - for Lower School, whole school and joint school productions. They also help on the night by taking/selling tickets on the door and selling refreshments. We need an excellent team to help with productions.

We also have a Stage Crew to help with productions. Please speak to your FT if you are interested in finding out more.

House Competitions

You will be assigned to one of the four houses at the beginning of year 7: Armours, Harrison's, Stevens or Waring's. Over the year you will compete for points in a variety of activities to try and win the Dennis Smith House Trophy. Points are gained through a variety of events (sport and non-sport) together with academic achievements.

Sport events include:

Rugby
Football
Cricket
Tennis
Badminton
Basketball
Table Tennis

Other events:

Chess
Debating
Quiz
Art

Points are also awarded for Merchants' Stars which are given out for excellent academic work or effort. Therefore, you always have the opportunity to contribute towards your house by the work that you do.

The final event of the year and the last chance to gain points for your house is Sports Day. Every member of the house is expected to attend either to participate or support their fellow team-mates.

The Houses and House Masters

ARMOUR

Mr W Miles
(Maths)

STEVENS

Mr J O'Brien
(Maths)

HARRISON

Mr S Kay
(Head of Economics)

WARING

Mr T Higham
(ICT)

House Organiser **Mr S Cooke (PE)**

Friday Afternoon Activity Programme

So it's Friday afternoon and you've had a busy week at school. Understandably you're tired and can't face a double lesson of Maths or English or Science...or even your favourite subjects! You don't want to be sitting behind a desk, thinking about tests or taking notes. And we understand that so every other week we give up the entire afternoon to activities that offer a different form of education ...

At Merchants' we aim to develop you into well-educated, well-rounded and caring young men who will play a significant role in society. We want to nurture you in a spirit of inquiry and curiosity which will see you explore various interests, whatever they might be. The activity programme is something you will do throughout your whole time at Merchants' and as you progress up the school you will be given

different opportunities. We aim to offer activities from a wide range of fields such as art, design, discussion and debate to music.

All boys at Merchant Taylors' are talented but, not perhaps, in the obvious ways you'd expect. It's one thing to have the skills to pass exams, but what about the ability to sculpt a clay model, to argue in a debate in front of people, or to learn to cook? That's what the Friday afternoon programme at its best is about ... bringing out the qualities you may not know you have.

How the programme will work:

The programme will run on Friday afternoons during periods 4 and 5 (from 1.40 to 4.00pm) every other week.



In Years 7 and 8 you will follow a programme in a carousel over the course of the year giving you a broad experience of enrichment activities. We want to foster curiosity and creativity through a broad programme of activities which you will rotate around. Activities will include things such as Norse Mythology, Information Literacy, a Music Ensemble and Orienteering. And we don't just confine ourselves to the School site either, the Museums of Liverpool activity will involve visits to some of our local venues.

By Year 9 you will follow a skills based programme linked to the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. There will also be the opportunity to enrol onto the scheme and work towards the different levels of the award. When you are in Year 10 and above you will be able to opt into a wide variety of other activities working with boys from other year groups.

The aims of the Friday afternoon programme:

- enjoy and be challenged in a range of activities involving intellectual, physical, creative and emotional experiences
- purposefully reflect upon these experiences
- identify their own strengths and develop areas for personal growth
- explore new possibilities, embrace new challenges and adapt to new roles
- show initiative and demonstrate commitment and perseverance
- actively participate in planned, sustained and collaborative activities/ projects
- develop a variety of skills such as collaboration, problem solving and decision making
- engage with issues of global significance
- communities with responsibilities toward each other and the environment
- willingness to accept new challenges and new roles



My role is to co-ordinate the activity programme and to sort out option choices. I hope that over the course of your school career you will gain many new experiences, new friendships and have fun along the way!

Mr Green

Assistant Head Co-Curricular and Planning

Peer Support

Peer Support is what stands at your shoulder if you're feeling lost, isolated and insignificant in the unfamiliar and confusing world into which you have just been plunged. It has to be said – even if you already have friends here and even if you attended the Junior School, the change is a big one. You seem to be at the bottom of the pile, and that's not what you are used to! So you may feel that the routine is incomprehensible or that the workload is overwhelming. Perhaps you haven't found friends yet, or other people are making your life difficult? Or you might have worries outside school. The point being that you need someone to talk to apart from your parents and your teachers.

The Peer Support system has been operating successfully for several years now to fill that gap, using older volunteers to encourage year 7 boys to make the most of their time here and to help with their problems. During the term before you arrive at Merchant Taylors', future Sixth formers apply to become Peer Supporters. They are boys who want to give something back by befriending newcomers. Those appointed will be carefully vetted, undertake active listening training and continue to attend training sessions throughout your first two terms at the school. On average two older boys are assigned to groups of six or seven year 7 pupils. You will be able to talk to them in confidence whenever you want, as well as having a formal meeting with them every three weeks or so. They are there to listen, advise and help sort out your problems, and they will approach your teachers for you when you feel you can't do so. They should make your life a lot easier.

At times during recent years we have supplemented this system with volunteer 'buddy' support from Year 8. Perhaps when you have come through your first successful year you might consider joining us to take care of the 'next generation'?

Mr Scott

Head of Peer Support

Peer Support runs two to three times per term, during PSHE on Friday mornings.



Hello from the School Nurse

No doubt you are all very excited and nervous about starting Senior School. I am here along with your teachers to help you adjust. To begin with it will be exhausting for you – both mentally and physically. You will be tired and perhaps feeling a bit poorly. Don't worry though, I am here to help.

If you do feel poorly it is really important to tell a teacher straight away. You may be sent out for some fresh air or a drink of water. If you are still unwell you will be sent to see me in the Medical Room in Milton House and I will try to make you better again. Make sure a friend comes with you though. If you need to go home, we will contact your parents and look after you until they pick you up.

If you are off School, your parents/guardians need to ring School on the first morning of your absence to let us know. For prolonged absence, schoolwork can be emailed or sent to you. If you need to take medicines whilst at School, ask your parents/guardians to contact me and we can sort it out – no problem at all.

If you've hurt yourself, again come to me straight away and I will patch you up!!

So to make it easier for yourselves, make sure you eat proper meals, have snacks (but not sweets!!) in your bag and always have a water bottle in School. It's vital to drink lots throughout the day – it will help you learn, honestly. Also it's important to get lots of sleep, so lots of early nights and this will help you join in everything we have to offer.

Any problems, you can come and see me (in private if necessary) anytime you want either for a chat, some advice or even if you need 'time out' and I'll try my best to make you feel better again.

Just remember we are here to help you.

School Nurse

schoolnurse@merchanttaylors.com

School Council

The School Council is quite different from other School Councils in so much that it is totally inclusive. There is no voting, so there are no popularity contests. Instead, anyone who wants to become a member of the School Council is encouraged to do so.



The School Council meets once or twice every half term to discuss a variety of issues, ranging from proposed changes to the school uniform, to which charities to support throughout the year. In the recent inspection report Merchant Taylors' School Council was described as a "vibrant institution" in which boys of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

If you do become a member of the School Council there are different sections that you can get involved in:

- Catering
- Administration and PR
- Environmental
- Charities
- Sanctions and Rewards

We hope that you will come and join us and get involved!



Mufti Day

Each term we have a school Mufti Day (non-uniform day) to raise money for charities which have been selected by the School Council. Pupils pay £2 each to wear their own clothes, instead of school uniform, and this money goes to a range of excellent causes. We have recently raised £1100 for the Little Princess Trust, £1000 for the Walton Centre and £1200 for the Whitechapel Centre to help homeless people in Liverpool.



The Walton Centre
NHS Foundation Trust



Clubs and Activities

With a lunch break of 1 hour and 15 minutes there is plenty of time to have your lunch, get some fresh air and attend one of our fantastic clubs. Look out for posters in September to tell you more!

Art

If you enjoy drawing, painting and sculpture we would love to see you at Art Club. You will get to learn new skills as well as hone your existing talent. We look forward to you joining us at this fun and relaxing club!

Board Games

Do you like board games? Perhaps you are an Uno, Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit champion? Then, drop in to Board games club at lunchtime and either play one of the games we have in school or bring in one of your own games to play with others. We look forward to seeing you there!

Biology

Once a week, boys from year 7 are welcome to attend Biology Club. This is an opportunity to carry out some exciting experiments with teachers and Sixth Form. You can dissect a mouse to look at the digestive system, as well as dissecting a heart. We also look after the two tropical aquariums and choose new fish to go into the tank. You can also brush up on your gardening skills. and make fossils!

Drama

Drama Club is a chance for any budding thespians from years 7-9 to hone their acting skills and be part of a big lower school production. At the start of term we play fun drama games and do different exercises to perfect skills, then we put all our efforts into a production. See you there!

Jigsaws

Every year we take on an Impossi-Puzzle to really challenge us! It is lots of fun to gather round a table together and try to get the pieces together - especially on a cold lunchtime in winter. We hope that you will join us for our next puzzle!

Debating

Boys from all year groups are welcome to come along to the school's debating society. This is a great chance to brush up on your skills and become an expert arguer! We discuss a range of topics, including current news stories as well as issues affecting you. We are hoping to send the best debaters away to take part in national competitions. There is also a Year 7 House Quiz and House Debating Competition for you to get involved with.

Fitness

If you are looking to increase your fitness then this club is for you! Come along each week to develop your skills and stretch yourself to achieve new things. You never know what you might be able to do!

Maths in Motion

Do you love Formula One racing? Then Maths in Motion is for you. After October half term Maths in Motion starts after school, once a week. Pupils work in pairs to analyse a race circuit, using Maths skills to assess 'straights' and 'bends' before logging into computers to set up a car. The challenge finishes with a Grand Prix against other schools from across the world!

Orienteering

Come along and enjoy this exciting outdoor adventure sport which involves walking or running whilst navigating around a course using a map. There are a number of school's league events which take place on Saturday mornings during the Autumn and Spring terms. If you are interested in joining the team please speak to Mr Toney. All levels of experience are welcome.

Running

Once a week boys are invited to take part in Running Club, often going offsite to enjoy a run in the Crosby Dunes. There are also a number of competitive events across the year to get involved in.

Science

All boys are invited to attend Science Club at lunchtime. You can get involved in lots of exciting experiments and find out all sorts of weird and wonderful things!



Many of our pupils tell us that one of their favourite things about school is the food! A wide range of choice is available, from homemade soup, to well known European, Asian and English dishes, such as fish and chips on a Friday. You will also find a daily salad bar and delicatessen, and plenty of chopped fruit and yoghurt. We are sure that you will find many things that you enjoy.

Breakfast Club: 8:00 - 8:40

If you come up to the canteen before school you can buy:

- Sausage on toast - Toast
- Selection of cereals - Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt

Morning Break: 10:20 - 10:40

At morning break you can buy the same type of food we offer before school.

Lunchtime

All of our meals are made from scratch on site. Each term we have a different rotation of menus, which are all based on a three weekly cycle. You can see the menus on the school website, but here is a sample:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Fresh Soup Made Daily	Cream of Tomato	Cream of Mushroom	Cream of Vegetable	Leek and Potato	Lentil
Main Meal	Chicken Fajita Cheese Flakes Parsley	Beef Meatballs Tomato Sauce	Roasted Pork Apple Sauce	Beef Chill Con Carne Basil	Battered Fish of the Day
Vegetarian	Vegetable Fajita Salsa	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bites	Vegetable Quorn Cobbler	Three Bean Tacos	Vegetable Roll
Carbohydrate	White Rice	Spaghetti	Roast Potato	Steamed Rice	Chipped Potatoes
Potato/Pasta	Jacket Potato Bar	Jacket Potato Bar	Pasta Bar	Jacket Potato and Sweet Potato Bar	Jacket Potato and Sweet Potato Bar
Freshly Prepared Vegetables	Peas Sweetcorn	Vegetable Medley	Spring Greens Carrots	Corn on the Cob Broccoli	Baked Beans Curry Sauce
Dessert	Jelly Pots Fresh Cut Fruit	Cookies Fresh Cut Fruit	Bakewell Tart Fresh Cut Fruit Yoghurt	Lemon Drizzle Fresh Cut Fruit Yoghurt	Chocolate Sponge Fresh Cut Fruit

Lost Property and Nearly New Uniform

By far the best way to ensure that you are reunited with your lost kit is to make sure that it is named. Please name ALL items. This includes your school bags and kit bags.

Items of lost property are collected periodically from around the school site and for any named items you will be notified via Firefly that your items are in the lost property room (next to the old gym) for your collection. This room is open and manned by members of the PTA most Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes between 12.40pm and 1.30pm, so please do go along and claim your lost kit. (The room is not open at other times). This process means that if your items are named, you should always be reunited with them. The teacher in charge of lost property is Dr Hardy.

Un-named kit is also taken to the lost property room where it will be held for a couple of weeks. If the items are not claimed after this time, the kit will be transferred to the 'nearly new section' of the lost property room. Any non-uniform items that are not named and not claimed after several weeks are washed and given to charity.

If you need to replace any school uniform, please visit via the lost property room and, for a small donation, we are extremely happy to kit you out with whatever we can from our stocks. If you lose something down at Hall Road, it will be brought back to school at the end of the week, and will be taken to the Ian Robinson Sports Centre. This will then be forwarded to main Lost Property, by the old gym.



Comments from Year 7 Pupils

“On your first day, don't worry, be happy!”

“I have some advice for you...when you do the Hall Road Run don't set off too fast or you will be for sorry for it!”

“Make sure you get your name down for Science Club - it is brilliant! You do really fun experiments and learn fascinating stuff!”

“GTX Cookery has been great. I have done Bush Cookery this term and it has been great cooking outside.”

“On my first day I was quite nervous, but by the second week I was settled in. My favourite subject has been ICT and I love Friday afternoons because you can choose from so many fun things to do in GTX. Be warned - your first year will go really fast so make the most of it!”

“Rock and River is amazing. You get to try so many different activities - and you have the chance to soak the teachers in the raft race!”

“Joining in with the Year 7 Choir has been much more fun than I thought!”

“I can't choose just one favourite subject - but I really like History, Maths and French. And I would really recommend getting your name down for the Maths in Motion Challenge. It is brilliant!”

“There are plenty of people who will be your friend!”

“When I started Senior School the biggest thing I was worried about was homework. But it's ok really. Just try and do it on the night it is set.”

Merchant Taylors' Old Boys' Association

When you leave Merchant Taylors' Boys' School in 7 years' time, you will automatically become an 'Old Boy'. Whilst you will still be young at this point, the title will remain with you for life, or at least until you grow into it! You will join the ranks of thousands of Old Boys, many of whom are still in touch with each other and the School today.



Old Boys range from those who have just left School and perhaps gone on to university, to those that left many years ago and are still attending events today in support of the School. You may not appreciate the benefits now, but being a member of the Old Boys' Association will, later in life, connect you to a strong and influential network and provide support, friendship and business connections for many years to come.

The OBA plays a vital part in maintaining the lifelong connection with School, and offers a number of benefits to you:

- Careers support, mentoring and networking, wherever you are in the world.
- Great social events – dinners, networking drinks, and sports events both in School and around the world.
- Bursary support for boys still at School, thanks to the generous donations of Old Boys.
- Donations to make your School life better – for example, the OBA funded the refurbishment of the Williams Hall in 2019.
- Staying in touch with School and fellow alumni via a monthly e-newsletter, social media and twice yearly magazine, Merchants' Tales.
- Close connections to the Merchant Taylors' Company in London, which itself offers apprenticeships, bursary support and career opportunities.
- 50% subsidy for U25s, and those in full time education, at OBA events.





Merchant Taylors' School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

Merchant Taylors' School
Liverpool Road, Crosby
Liverpool L23 0QP

Call: 0151 949 9351

 /merchanttaylorsCrosby

 @merchantsCrosby

 @MerchantsCrosby