



Merchant Taylors'
School

Ambition | Character | Excellence

MERCHANT TAYLORS' GIRLS' SCHOOL

ENRICHMENT AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2021-22



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At Merchant Taylors' Girls' School, we want every one of our pupils to enjoy an education that is distinctly and uniquely enriching. This will give them the skills, experiences and confidence to lead successful and fulfilling lives when they leave school.

Key to achieving this aim is a wide-ranging co-curricular programme that is challenging, purposeful and accessible. This booklet gives you a flavour of what we offer as part of the formal timetable, during lunch and after school. New activities and initiatives are introduced all the time, often at the suggestion of the pupils themselves, so the booklet will be updated on a regular basis.

Every pupil should be able to find activities that develop her own interests and allow her to try new things, and thereby gain as much as possible from a Merchants' education.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Claire Tao'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mrs Claire Tao
Headmistress

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT



ANCIENT GREEK

Who Years 9 - 11

When Tuesday lunch

Learn how to read the Ancient Greek language, starting with the alphabet and transliteration before you tackle some translation challenges!

BOOK GROUP

Who Years 7 - 8

When Tuesday lunch

The Library holds a fantastic collection of fiction and non-fiction books that you can borrow to read for pleasure as well as to support your studies. The Book Group meets every week to provide opportunities to share your love of reading with other students. You can also get involved in supporting the running of the library service as a Library Helper (Year 9 upwards) or by joining the Sixth Form Library Committee.



CHESS CLUB

Who All year groups

When Weekly

Chess Club provides you with an opportunity to have fun playing the game and making friendships. Playing chess will also help you to develop many mental skills that are useful in life, such as: logic, strategic and tactical thinking, planning and preparation, and problem-solving.

CLASSICS CLUB

Who Years 7 - 9

When Friday lunch

Learn about myths, gods, heroes and monsters from the Ancient World through a range of fun and creative projects. Every Friday lunchtime in Classics 2.



CLASSICS SYMPOSIUM

Who Years 7 - 8

When Tuesday lunch

Expand your understanding of the wider Classical World and share your own research in our half-termly collaborations with the Boys' School.

CRYPTOGRAPHY CLUB

Who Years 7 - 11

When Monday lunch

Do you like breaking codes and solving ciphers? If you do, the Cryptography Club offers plenty of challenge – and plenty of fun! You will also have the opportunity to compete in the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition, run by the University of Manchester.

**The Alan Turing
Cryptography Competition**

ENRICHMENT LESSONS

Who Years 10 - 13

When Tuesday lunch

At Merchant's, enrichment is not something that is only available to a selected small group of pupils. In addition to the activities outlined elsewhere in this booklet, pupils in Years 10 and 11 have two timetabled lessons every week. They can use these lessons to take an additional GCSE subject, complete the CREST Award or enjoy activities ranging from personal finance to conversational Portuguese. In the Sixth Form, pupils can use their enrichment lessons to complete an EPQ (see below), learn sign language or undertake volunteer work.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Who Lower sixth

When Thursday lunch
(Spring Term)

The European Youth Parliament UK runs a national debating competition held in the Spring Term, for which a Lower Sixth team will prepare to compete in the North West Session. The debates focus on current global political, economic and social issues.



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Who Sixth Form

When Weekly lessons



The EPQ is an A-level standard qualification that helps students prepare for higher education and their future career. Beginning in the Lower Sixth, students plan and carry out research on a topic of their choice that isn't covered by their other qualifications. They use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

The experience of completing an independent academic project allows students to:

- become more critical and reflective learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- understand how to critically evaluate sources of evidence
- acquire a range of important writing skills, including analysis and synthesis
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

A number of our pupils undertake an EPQ every year. During timetabled lessons, they are taught key research and presentation skills as well as having time to work on their project independently. Every student is assigned a member of staff as a supervisor to help bring the project to a successful conclusion

GEOGRAPHY FILM CLUB

Who Years 7 - 9

When Tuesday lunch

Explore the Earth in a different way – through amazing factual documentaries and fictional films. Enjoy discovering the Earth's continents, oceans, natural hazards, ecosystems and much more, every week in G3!

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Who Years 9 - 11

When One timetabled lesson per week

Do you like breaking codes and solving ciphers? If you do, the Cryptography Club offers plenty of challenge – and plenty of fun! You will also have the opportunity to compete in the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition, run by the University of Manchester.



GREAT DEBATE

Who Years 10 - 13

When Thursday lunch (Spring Term)

The Historical Association's 'Great Debate' is a debating competition held in the Autumn Term. Students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form can take part in our own internal competition in the Autumn Term to select a representative for the regional heat and (hopefully!) the national final at Windsor Castle!



HISTORY CLUB

Who Years 7 - 9

When Thursday lunch

The Junior History Club is partly a book club, partly a chance to show your creative skills! We'll read a book about historical events and people each half term, discuss it and complete some craft activities based on the story. And the reading will help you to prepare for the Historical Association's annual 'Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition', with the best internal entries going forward to this prestigious national competition.



ICT HOMEWORK CLUB

Who All year groups

When Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunch

Use this opportunity to independently complete online homework or any task set by your subject teachers that requires a computer. Support is available for those who need help with their digital skills.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Who Sixth Form

When As advertised

The International Committee supports Amnesty International UK through its youth group programme, which aims to campaign and fundraise for human rights. Sixth Form students will organise events and assemblies, collect signatures and raise both money and awareness for Amnesty.

It's a great way to develop valuable skills and experience for your future education and career.

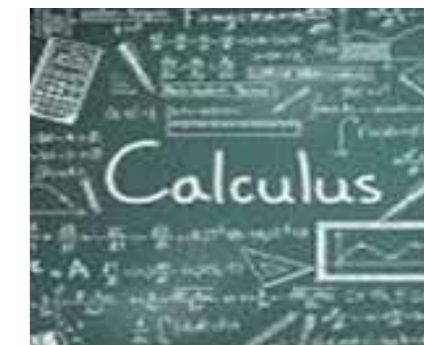


MATHEMATICS CLUB

Who All year groups

When Wednesday lunch

Do you like breaking codes and solving ciphers? If you do, the Cryptography Club offers plenty of challenge – and plenty of fun! You will also have the opportunity to compete in the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition, run by the University of Manchester.



MEDICINE AND ETHICS SOCIETY

Who Sixth Form

When Thursday lunch

Sixth Form students aspiring to study a relevant degree including Medicine, Biomedicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry can participate in a range of activities, including workshops, debates and presentations. Invaluable advice will be available from guest speakers as well as teaching staff during the UCAS application process.



MFL CLUB

Who All year groups

When Wednesday lunch

MFL Club offers a variety of different activities for different year groups each half term: from learning brand new languages to making Day of the Dead skulls, from foreign cinema to celebrating Chinese New Year. Come and learn about different languages and cultures in a fun and friendly environment.



MIDDLE SCHOOL DEBATING

Who Years 9 - 11

When Tuesday lunch

Debating enables you to develop not only your public speaking skills but also your confidence. Have fun exploring some big issues while gaining skills and experience that you will benefit from for the rest of your life.

OLYMPIADS, CHALLENGES AND COMPETITIONS

Who All year groups

When Throughout the year

Throughout your time at Merchant Taylors' Girls' School, you will be given the opportunity to take part in a number and variety of academic competitions. All students are entered into these as appropriate to their age, abilities and subject specialisms. Competitions that our students have taken part in recently include:

- British Council Speaking Competition
- Mathematics Olympiad
- UK Chemistry Olympiad
- Design Museum's Ventura Challenge
- Pink Kangaroo Contest
- UKMT Maths Challenge
- RSC Analyst Competition
- RSC Top of the Bench Competition
- UK Physics Olympiad
- ISMLA Original Writing Competition 2021: Year 10-13 Chinese, French, German, Italian & Spanish
- UK Biology Olympiad
- University of Oxford Translations Competition
- Young Writers Competitions



OXBRIDGE ENRICHMENT AND OTHER UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Who Years 10 - 13

When Weekly

A number of our Sixth Form students apply to hugely competitive higher education courses, ranging from leading conservatoires, art and dance colleges to Medicine and Dentistry Schools to undergraduate degree courses at Oxford and Cambridge.

Our curriculum, including the Global Perspectives and Enrichment elements highlighted earlier in this booklet, helps us to identify and support candidates for these competitive courses even before they begin A Level study.

Once they reach the Sixth Form, those candidates are given targeted individual support towards their application, university aptitude tests and entrance exams such as BMAT, LAT and UKCAT, as well as with post-school scholarships and bursary awards. This support includes interview practice (where necessary) and a subject-specific mentor, either from the teaching staff or from our extensive alumni community.

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

Who Year 9

When Wednesday lunch

Psychology Club introduces you to various psychological theories, studies and activities from a range of topics including Forensic Psychology, Psychopathology and Attachment. You will also be shown a variety of multimedia to develop your understanding and widen your interest in this fascinating subject.



SCIENCE CLUB

Who Year 7

When Thursday lunch

The Science Club is open to any Year 7 pupil who is interested in doing scientific experiments and learning new practical techniques and theories. We will start off by making and firing rockets and then move on to a new experiment each week. It's the perfect opportunity to develop your practical skills and passion for science!

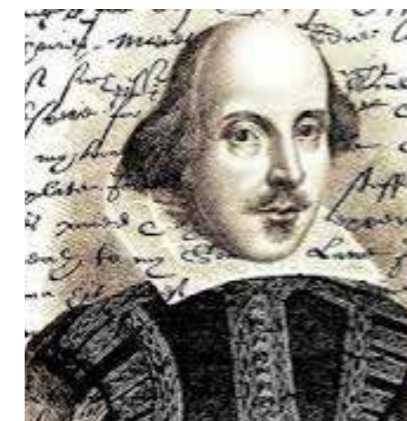


SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY

Who Years 9 -10

When Monday lunch

Use this opportunity to independently complete online homework or any task set by your subject teachers that requires a computer. Support is available for those who need help with their digital skills.



STEM CLUB

Who Lower Sixth

When Monday lunch

The STEM Club offers a unique opportunity for students to have a first practical experience of a real space project through the UK CanSat Competition. You will be responsible for all aspects of a typical space project: selecting the mission objectives, designing a simulation of a real satellite, integrating the components, testing, preparing for launch and then analysing the data.



OUTDOOR PURSUITS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS



OUTDOOR PURSUITS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & SPORTS

CCF (COMBINED CADET FORCE)

Who Years 9 -13

When Thursday after school

Merchant Taylors' School has the largest CCF contingent in the North West, with more than 250 pupils taking part every week. They develop leadership and teamwork skills through a range of activities including camping, sailing and flying. In addition to the weekly training sessions, pupils can attend a variety of camps and courses.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH SCHEME

Who Years 9 -13

When Wednesday & Thursday lunch

First established in 1956, the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is one of the most popular co-curricular activities at Merchants'. It offers the opportunity to discover new interests and talents, while also developing essential skills for study, work and life. For many young people, it is a truly life-changing experience.

To successfully achieve any of the three awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold – you need to complete various sections. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and (for the Gold Award only) working with a team on a residential activity.

Bronze Award training sessions take place during Wednesday lunch for pupils in Years 10 and 11, while an eDofE drop-in session runs during Thursday lunch for any pupils in Years 9 – 13.



SPORT

SPORT

Who All year groups

When Everyday !

We know that our pupils will be happy and make good progress if they are healthy and active. Therefore, all year groups have timetabled Games and PE lessons in which they can try out a variety of sports. This is complemented by daily lunchtime and after-school coaching sessions to include: Add in individual descriptions of provision:

HOCKEY

This fast-paced game develops physical and teamwork skills. It is the main team sport in the Autumn Term, when the girls compete against other schools in friendly fixtures, local Sefton competitions and national tournaments.

NETBALL

This is the main team sport in the Spring Term, when we compete successfully in local and national tournaments. There are plenty of opportunities for girls of all abilities to take part in this sport, which tests athleticism and discipline.

CROSS COUNTRY

Whether you are a serious runner or simply enjoy the chance of exercise in stunning local countryside, cross country gives you plenty of opportunity to stretch your legs! Our pupils take part in competitions ranging from the Liverpool midweek league to the English Schools Cross Country Cup.

INDOOR ROWING

Weekly indoor training sessions allow girls to develop the physical and technical skills needed to take part in national competitions – and we hope to be competing on the water as well, in the near future!

BADMINTON

Weekly training sessions allow pupils to develop the necessary skills for both singles and doubles, with the opportunity to enter the England Badminton Schools Club.

TAG RUGBY

This new sport gives pupils the opportunity to develop hand eye coordination, teamwork and ball handling skills in order to play mini games.

DANCE

This activity is run by Sixth Form pupils, who will choreograph and lead weekly sessions for a range of dance styles.

GYMNASTICS

Weekly training sessions, running until the end of the Spring Term, allow pupils to develop their individual gymnastics skills using a range of apparatus. All abilities are welcome!

FOOTBALL

Pupils develop and practise individual skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting and goal keeping, which they can then use in game play sessions.

Merchants' has a strong reputation in regional inter-school competitions, with regular successes in several team sports. By entering multiple teams in each age group for block fixtures, there are opportunities for all girls to represent the school and improve their skills.

Support is given to individual pupils who are involved in elite training outside the school, in order to allow them to find the optimal balance between their academic work and their sporting ambitions. We actively support pupils who are working towards representative honours nationally and internationally outside of school, in a wide range of sports including athletics, golf, rowing and skiing, by developing a personalised programme of blended learning for them.



PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS



AMABILE

Who Years 9 - 11

When Friday lunch

This is an auditioned, joint-MTBS choir that performs a wide-ranging repertoire of classical, pop and barbershop-style music. Ideal for those pupils wishing to stretch their choral skills even further.



ART CLUB

Who Years 7 - 9

When Wednesday lunch

Develop your lino print skills and technique, and have fun using them to create colourful but realistic insect designs.



BRASS ENSEMBLE

Who All year groups

When Weekly

Beginning after half term, this newly-formed group is for both beginner and more advanced brass students.

CERAMICS WORKSHOP

Who Years 10 - 11

When Monday lunch

Weekly workshops will enable students to learn more about the skills involved in ceramics and to produce preliminary texture tiles in preparation for their GCSE clay outcome.



CHAMBER CHOIR

Who Years 9 - 13

When Thursday lunch

A small group of advanced and auditioned choristers who tackle the most challenging repertoire, record and perform in a variety of venues, both internal and external. Preparing for first choir tour.

CONCERT BAND

Who All year groups

When Wednesday after school

Joint with MTBS, this is a non-auditioned ensemble for all beginner instruments: woodwind, brass and percussion.



COOKING CLUB

Who Year 8

When Wednesday after school

Starting after half term, Year 8 pupils will have the opportunity to develop their food preparation skills whilst exploring the science of cooking. They will be making a variety of sweet and savoury dishes, as well as baking some family favourites!



COSMETICS CLUB

Who Years 7 - 9

When Wednesday lunch

Learn about GMP (good manufacturing process), manufacture products ranging from lip balms to candles, carry out stability testing and then . . . launch your own brand in time for Christmas!



COSTUME CLUB

Who Years 8 – 9

When Wednesday lunch (starting after half term)

Beginning after half term, this newly-formed group is for both beginner and more advanced brass students.



DRAMA CLUB

Who Years 10 - 11

When Monday lunch

During the first half of term, Year 8 pupils will have the opportunity to explore their current English text Noughts & Crosses through drama workshop exercises. They will experiment with character development and expressive dialogue in order to better understand the plot. During the second half of term, Year 7s will use Greek Theatre techniques and have the opportunity to act out scenes from the pantomime scripts they will be writing in their English lessons – just in time for Christmas!

DT CLUB

Who Years 10 - 11

When Thursday lunch

GCSE students can hone their Design & Technology skills while exploring their creative side in weekly sessions. See if you can emulate the Year 9 team that won the prestigious Design Ventura Competition in 2020!



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

Who All year groups

When Wednesday after school

This is a non-auditioned choir designed to introduce pupils to choral singing. It performs in many of the major school events, including the Christmas Concert and Summer Showcase.



PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS

ORCHESTRA

Who All year groups

When Monday after school

Joint with MTBS and open to pupils in all years. Woodwind and brass players should be working at approximately grade 4 standard. No minimum standard for strings.



SENIOR CHOIR

Who Years 7 - 9

When Wednesday lunch

This non-auditioned choir enables more experienced singers to build on their choral skills, singing a more demanding repertoire and performing in a number of both school and external events.



STRING GROUP

Who All year groups

When Weekly

Beginning after half term. All string players welcome. This group performs at school concerts and other events.



WIND GROUP

Who All year groups

When Monday lunch

For any year group. All woodwind instruments are welcome, but pupils should be working at approximately grade 3 level.



VOLUNTEERING AND CHARITY

We encourage and actively support our pupils to lead community service initiatives and undertake appropriate voluntary placements, both during the school day and outside school hours. By doing this, our pupils not only develop important communication and organisational skills. They also develop into compassionate and altruistic young people who will contribute to not only their local communities but also global society when they leave school.

Pupils organise collections for local and national charities ranging from the Trussell Trust Food Bank to Comic Relief. Many also give up their time after school or over weekends to volunteer for local charities such as Clatterbridge, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and local primary schools.

Merchant's is a caring community with close links to its central Crosby location and the wider north west region. Through volunteering and charitable contribution, our pupils strengthen these links while becoming the best versions of themselves.



WELLBEING AND HEALTH



MY SPACE

Who All year groups

When Monday & Wednesday lunchtime

My Space provides a quiet and calm environment to promote your wellbeing and a positive mindset. We provide a range of activities for you to choose from such as mindfulness colouring, board games to build communication skills, a quiet reading corner and challenges to build resilience, as well as knitting and embroidery. It's a chance to relax in the middle of a busy day.

PRISM

Who Years 7 - 11

When Monday & Friday lunchtime

Prism offers a safe space for anyone to talk and share their feelings about anything, but specifically LGBTQ+ issues. Available on Mondays for pupils in Years 7 and 8 and Fridays for Years 9 – 11.



YOGA AND MEDITATION

Who All year groups

When Weekly

Take time out of the busy school day to focus on both your physical and your mental health and wellbeing. Improve your strength and flexibility through yoga exercises, and then clear your mind and train your attention and awareness through a range of meditation techniques.



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