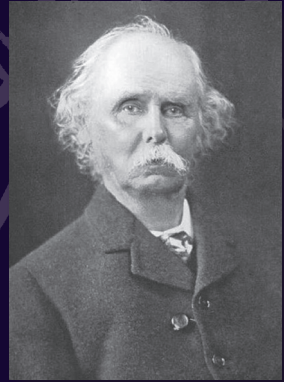
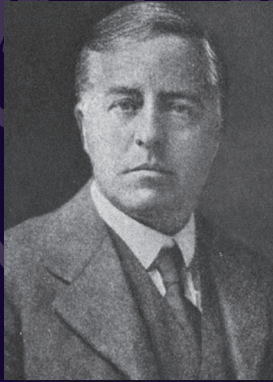
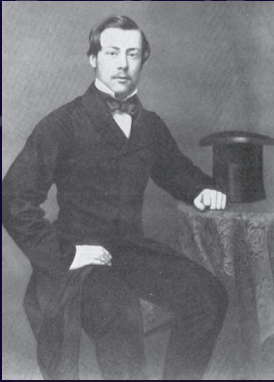


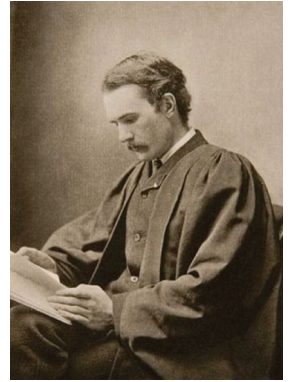
BEING A SCHOLAR AT MERCHANT TAYLORS'





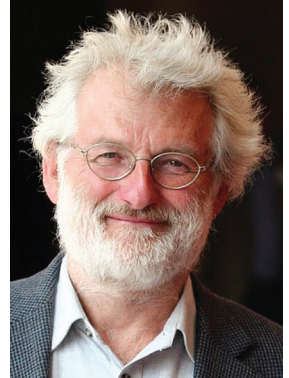
Welcome

Many of you have been scholars for some years; some of you are returning to Merchant Taylors', having been promoted to scholarships; and some of you are new to the school. Whichever the category into which you fall, this is certain: we have seen something in you of academic talent and promise, which we shall look to develop and to foment in the coming weeks, terms, and years.



Gilbert Murray OMT was the most renowned Classicist of the 20th century, a leading public intellectual, and a key figure in the beginnings of the League of Nations.

However, please don't think scholarship as a passive experience or process. The School will help you to flourish, but you must be the agent. Gradgrind, the schoolmaster in Dickens' *Hard Times*, makes this mistake: "He sees his pupils as little vessels then and there arranged in order, ready to have imperial gallons of facts poured into them until they were full to the brim." At MTS, that is not how we see you. Facts are important, make no mistake; but, like all academic study, they are most enjoyable when you devour them, not when they are poured into you. There follows some suggestions of how you can be proactive in your pursuit of academic excellence and enjoyment during your years at Merchant Taylors'.



*John Sulston OMT was a biologist who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the cell lineage and genome of the worm *Caenorhabditis elegans* in 2002.*

Scholarship Tutorials/Seminars

We would like to see you attending as many of these as possible. They will be hosted by a teacher, and you will explore and talk about something – anything, really. Teachers have their own interests, and they will share these with you. You will be expected to offer your own thoughts on this topic, and you may be asked to bring your own topic to discuss. You are not being assessed – rather, you are being invited to offer your own thoughts on a subject, and to become accustomed to being involved in academic discussion. Remember, an integral part of teaching at top universities takes the form of this kind of teaching, so becoming accustomed to it now will stand you in good stead.

You will receive more information on when these will happen.

The Library

We are fortunate at MTS to have a superb library, which is a fine space at the heart of the school. The Library is excellently resourced, and is open throughout the school day, as well as before and after school. So be sure to take time to enjoy the special experience of a great book, a comfortable chair, and a lovely room. The Library has reading lists on a range of subjects in case you are looking for ideas. Bear in mind that when you go to university, you go to read a subject.

In addition, the Library runs author talks throughout the year (watch out for the adverts), and competitions such as The Big Read (end of Autumn term) and the Summer Reading Challenge (end of Summer term). There are also reading groups for lower school (Book Boffz), and a Carnegie Medal shadowing group for the middle and upper school, and lots of activities during the termly Reading Weeks. Speak to the Librarian, Mrs South, for more information.



James Jeans OMT was Astronomer Royal and the author of key works on relativity and cosmology.



Lancelot Andrewes OMT was Bishop of Winchester and oversaw the translation of the King James Bible.

Journalism

Recent years have seen a big increase in the number of internal publications. The scholars have produced their own Scholars' Scoop, and there are several subject-based publications, such as the Harrison History Review, the Geography Magazine, the Co-Dependent (satirical publication), the Backbencher (Politics), Insight (Biology), and others.

Writing and Drawing

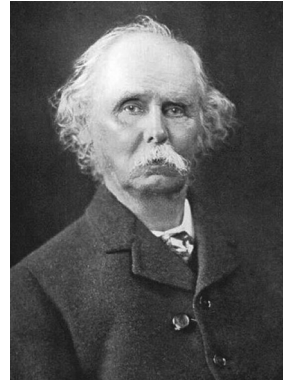
In addition to journalism, why not enter a writing competition? These will be advertised within departments, but you will find the likes of:

- Greek myth competition
- Junior and Senior Geography Essays
- Lower School Historical Fiction Prize
- Nancy Rothwell Specimen Drawing Competition

Remember that the Art Department is open at lunchtimes for those who wish to hone their skills.

Lectures

Every year, we host a range of world-renowned speakers. Over the past couple of years, these have included then Justice Secretary David Gauke, lawyer Lord Pannick, philosopher Prof. T.H. Irwin, satirist Andrew Doyle, philologist Prof. James Clackson, zoologist Dr Brian Bertram, and Holocaust survivor Gerald Granston. Do go along to hear similarly eminent speakers in the year ahead.



Alfred Marshall OMT, was a leading economist and author of Principles of Economics.



John Beames OMT was an expert in Indian languages and author of a comparative grammar of Indo-Aryan languages.

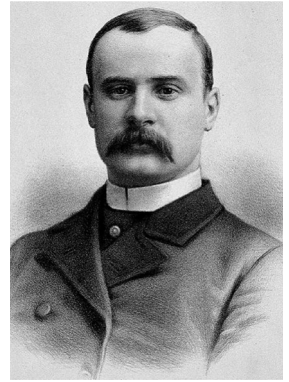
Societies

MTS rightly celebrates the rich and diverse range of societies on offer, and you should make the most of these. Look in the school diary for times, or watch out for advertisements. For example,

- Dissection club
- Chemistry Club
- Alfred Marshall Political Economy Society
- The Herrick (English Society)
- Linguachef (Modern Languages and Cooking)
- Japanese Club
- The Bulstrode Whitelocke Society (History)
- Panglossia (Modern Languages Society)
- DT societies such as 4x4 Club, Rampaging Chariots, Robotics Club, and Motorsports Club

House Events

Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to become involved in House competitions, such as House Maths, Spelling Bee, Classics, Chess, and the Literary Challenge.



Frederick Treves OMT was a leading surgeon and anatomist, who performed the first appendectomy in the UK, and treated Joseph Merrick (known as 'the Elephant Man').



E.H. Carr was a historian and diplomat, best known for his 14-volume history of the Soviet Union, and 'What is History?', a key work on historiography.

Music

Music has always held a special place in the life of the school, and rehearsals take place throughout the week, before, after, and during the school day.

- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
- Sinfonia
- Concert Band
- Wind Band
- Swing Band
- Dixieland Band
- Merchants of Groove
- Taylors' Brass
- Guitar Ensemble
- Senior/Junior Percussion Ensembles
- Choir
- Chamber Choir
- Vocal Ensemble



The annual concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City.

We want you to make the most of your time as Scholars at Merchant Taylors', and we look to you to be the intellectual leaders of the school. Make the most of the opportunities, and make the most of your ability – if you do these, your times at Merchant Taylors' will be truly happy, exciting, and rewarding.

PDH



Scholars Vincent Mastin and Ishy Levy (Class of 2020) pictured after winning places to read Modern & Medieval Languages at Cambridge and Classics at Oxford respectively.



Grant of Arms 1586