



MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL
Sandy Lodge, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2HT
Telephone 01923 820644
Email: lfoot@mtsn.org.uk

Head Master S J Everson, MA

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to MTS Sport

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Merchant Taylors' and provide you with some insight into school sport and physical activity. We believe they are integral components to the learning environment and are a place to develop meaningful relationships, build character, have fun, grow in confidence, and promote long term health for life beyond school. Sport and physical activity are such important parts of a child's education, and we value them very highly.

Please take the time to look through the details to this letter as it provides you with all the relevant information surrounding games and physical education. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me on the email address above.

I wish your son the very best of luck and hope to see you on the touch line at some point in the year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Luke Foot

Director of Sport

Games at MTS

On arrival, all boys are expected to start with the main games option of the term. As boys progress through the school, there are more options available for those who do not represent the main sports teams; meaning they have another chance to play for the school in a competitive sporting environment, with up to 20 additional sporting options to choose from. Below is a table outlining the main sports and the terms they are played in:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
3 rd & U3 rd	Hockey	Rugby	Cricket
4 th – U6 th	Rugby	Hockey	Cricket

Games Sessions

These are the days that games run for the school. Saturday sport in the first few weeks is open to all but when fixtures begin it will be boys selected on teams only.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
3 rd & U3 rd	Monday Wednesday Saturday	Monday Wednesday Saturday	Monday Wednesday Saturday
4 th – U6 th	Monday Wednesday <i>Thursday*</i> Saturday	Monday Wednesday <i>Thursday*</i> Saturday	Monday Wednesday <i>Thursday*</i> Saturday

**teams only*

PE Lessons

PE Lessons take place during the normal school day and focus on developing a healthy active lifestyle as well as skills development and swimming. Swimming is an important life skill and the sports department will strive to develop all boys to the point where they can swim two recognised strokes before they reach the sixth form.

PE Guidelines

- *Watches and jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. Those who wear Religious jewellery must provide a note from their parents to state this and it must be made safe for the boy and the class. If it cannot, the boy may not be allowed to do certain activities.*
- *Black or blue swimming shorts are required for swimming*
- *Goggles and swimming hats must be worn by all pupils.*

MTS values sport both as a health and an educational tool and how it contributes to producing a rounded pupil. Sport has been proven to not only lead to a better quality of life at older age (due to the advantages of regular exercise on combatting cardiovascular disease) but also as a tool to promote brain function and relieve stress (both hugely important aspects in academic preparation).

Expectations of Pupils

1. Pupils at MTS are expected to be available for all games sessions and school fixtures if they are required. This is stipulated in the schools terms and conditions of membership. This includes all Saturday matches and training as well as post match teas on games days.
2. Pupils are also expected to adhere to school rules on the field of play at all times. Bad language, dissent and any other unsporting actions will be dealt with the same severity as if these occurred in normal lessons.
3. Pupils are expected to bring the appropriate kit for Games and PE lessons. Compulsory and optional kit packages are outlined below.

Our kit provider is Player Layer and all details of how to order your son's sports kit can be found on the school website. For any queries, please contact rebecca.powditch@playerlayer.com

Sports Uniform List	Additional Sports Uniform List
Junior Blitz Rugby Shorts	Junior Bodyline Cricket Trousers
Junior Field Shorts Pockets	Junior Bodyline Cricket Shirt S/S
Junior Pro Socks	Junior Playerlayer Leggings
Junior Reversalayer Playing Jersey S/S	Junior Playerlayer Shorts
Junior Trainalayer Bottoms	Junior Quarter Zip Midlayer
Junior Victorylayer Performance Tee	Junior's Playerlayer Crew Neck Baselayer
House Tee	Beanie (non fold)
All Conditions Training Top	Luglayer Backpack- 22L
	Luglayer Holdall- 49L

Protective Equipment

Boys are expected to use the following safety equipment for the following sports;

- Rugby Gum Shield for any contact situation
- Hockey Gum Shield and shin pads for all gameplay situations
- Cricket Relevant protective equipment for batting

Boys who lose or do not have their Gum Shield can get one from the school nurse during the week. The cost of which will be added to the pupils school bill. Properly fitted Gum Shields are recommended for comfort but boil-in-the-bag Gum Shields are just as effective.

Footwear

Footwear is very important for growing boys. These are the following recommendations for footwear;

- PE Trainers – Running shoes with laces are best
- Hockey Astro turf shoes – these can be football Astros but they need to have good grip on the sole

- Rugby Boots – Screw in studs are preferable over bladed boots
- Cricket spikes (not compulsory)

Off-Games Procedure

Please be aware that we are making changes to the procedures for off-games. The link below takes you to a form to complete should your son be injured or off-games. This must be completed for each injury or illness and is also required in order to access the physiotherapy. If you have any queries or concerns or would like to submit further information on your son's situation, please do contact the school office.

[Injury record form](#)

School Physiotherapy

The School is now happy to offer a physiotherapy service to support your son through any injury he might sustain. Should you wish to access this service there is cost of £100 per academic year which covers all sessions. If your son has initial consultation and does not require further support there will be no charge. All sessions will take place either in games or the lunch hour on school site and are arranged via [Mr. Bruce](#). Please complete the link below if you wish to receive this service should it be required.

[Consent form](#)

Request for Absence Procedure

In exceptional circumstances, boys may be allowed to miss a Saturday fixture. In this case, a note will need to be sent to the Director of Sport and the Master in Charge of the side a MINIMUM of 2 weeks in advance. The request for absence will then be considered by the School staff and will be judged on an individual basis. The school through the Director of Sport, reserves the right to not grant absence requests.

Match Day Procedure

All confirmed fixtures will be printed in the school diary. Additional fixtures may be added and these will be advertised to the boys as soon as possible. Team sheets will be sent via SOCS to boys prior to matches. Boys will need to respond to these to confirm they are available and have received the information. The email will state the meet time, start time and pick up time of matches.

Home Matches

Boys can arrive in their Games kit for matches; they will need to bring School Uniform for post-match teas. All boys are expected to play Rugby and Hockey in their shorts.

It is hoped that all parents will come to matches to support their son and the team he is representing. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be available after all home matches for all spectators in the dining room.

Away Matches

Boys will need to travel in the expected dress code for that sport (MTS tracksuit for hockey, school uniform for rugby and whites with a blazer for cricket).

Supporters will;

- *Cheer and encourage good play by either team*
- *Remain outside the field of play and behind the Designated Spectator Area (where provided)*
- *Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior*
- *Always respect the match officials' decisions*
- *Never criticise a player for making a mistake -mistakes are part of learning*
- *Encourage students to respect the opposition and match officials*
- *Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do*

It is hoped that supporters will uphold the School's Code of Conduct at all times. If an issue does arise which is deemed a breach of the code, the school reserves the right to ban supporters from school matches.